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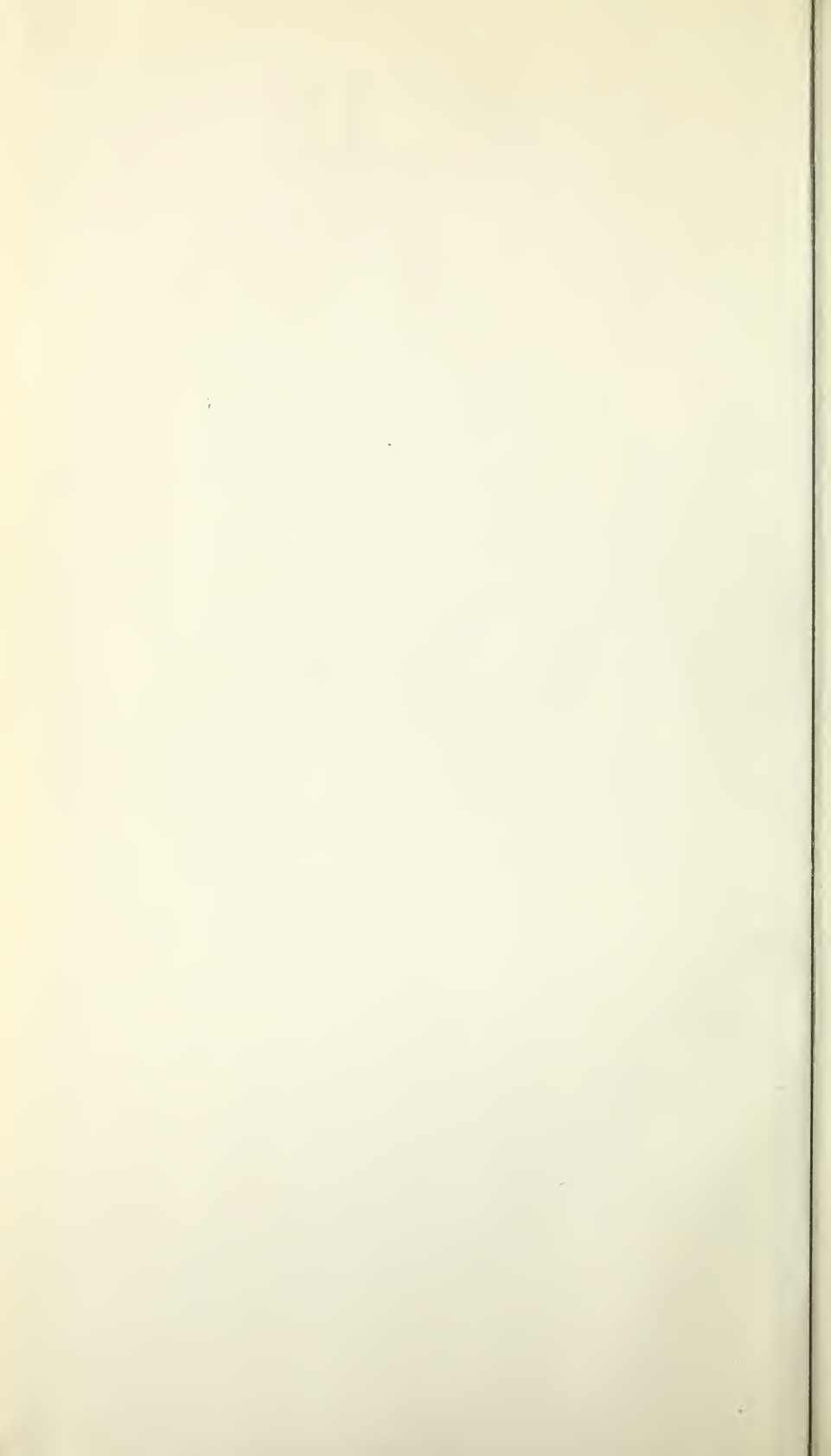
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REGISTRATION
OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS
IN
MASSACHUSETTS.

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1911



FOURTH ✓

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

LEGISLATURE,

RELATING TO THE

REGISTRY AND RETURNS

OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

IN

MASSACHUSETTS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1845.

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1845

4th

BY JOHN G. PALFREY,

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Boston:

DUTTON AND WENTWORTH, STATE PRINTERS.

No. 37, Congress Street.

1845.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN

WILKINS

OF

THE

UNIVERSITY OF

OXFORD

PRINTED

BY

JOHN WILKINS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE; December, 1845.

*To the Honorable Senate
and House of Representatives :*

I have the honor to submit the following Report of proceedings had, during the present political year, under the Act of 1844 (Chapter 159), "relating to the Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths."

In the last week of April, I forwarded blanks to the town clerks for the Returns required by law. I also addressed to them the following letter :—

"SIR ;

"THE duty of town clerks and others, in respect to the 'Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages, and Deaths,' is prescribed in the Act of 1844, Chap. 159, of which there is a copy at the beginning of the Register forwarded to you from this office last year. No alteration has been made in the law.

"Your return to this department, due in the course of the month of June next, is to include all Births, Marriages and Deaths, 'which have happened during the year next preceding *the first day of May,*' 1845, within your town. These events should in no case be embraced in your Return to this office, unless they occur *within your town limits*, though, if you see fit also to enter in your *Register* the Marriages, &c. of your citizens, when they take place out of town, there is no objection.

"In the *Registers*, as I informed you last year, there are some columns prepared to receive entries, which it is optional with the town clerks to make or omit ; for instance, the columns headed *informant*, and *place of interment*. But the blanks now sent are prepared for no other entries except those required by law to be returned. The *column* in the *Register* headed *place of birth* will, by clerks of large towns, be found convenient for entering the *streets*, or *parts of the town*, in which Births respectively took

place. But the *Return* is to give no other place of birth but the *town*, and this is to be entered in the blank space of the line running across the top of the *Return*.

"Be pleased to write out *in words*, at the head of the blanks, the whole number of Births, &c., which have taken place during the year, instead of expressing the number in figures. They are also to be numbered consecutively, 1, 2, 3, &c., in the left hand column, in the order in which they stand entered in your Register."

"The purport of the law in requiring a statement of the *condition* of persons deceased, &c., has been misconceived by some town officers. It is explained in the first section of the Act to relate to the state of the parties as *married* or *single*.

"Each entry of a Birth or Death will occupy only *one line* of the blank return. *Two lines* will be requisite for each entry of a Marriage, one containing the name of the groom, the other of the bride.

"The clerks of large towns will receive herewith ruled sheets, which, when attached to the printed blank, are thought to be about sufficient to contain their record. If not, it may be easily extended by the addition of paper ruled to conform. I forward two sets of blank returns *for Births*, one for the Return of the School Committee to you, the other for your return to this office.

"Some town officers have expressed the opinion that the duty of ascertaining the number of Births in each town during the year preceding the first of May, now imposed by the second section of the Act on School Committees, might be more conveniently discharged by the Assessors, who make their circuit in that month. You will perceive that there is no difficulty in making that arrangement in any town in which it would be agreeable to the two boards. The law expressly assigns the duty, and allows the compensation, "to the School Committee, or *other persons authorized by them*;" and the Assessors may be so authorized whenever the parties consent.

"The chief practical inconvenience experienced in the operation of the law is believed to have been in relation to certain particulars required in the Returns of clergymen, and other persons solemnizing Marriages. Allow me to suggest that it is in the power of town clerks to obviate this difficulty by making inquiry respecting these particulars when they receive an application to publish an intention of Marriage, and then entering them in the

certificate of publishment. The certificate being handed to the clergyman or justice (as the law requires) as his authority to unite the parties, will, with these additions, save the necessity of making the inquiries at an unsuitable time. After solemnizing the Marriage, the clergyman or justice can, of his own knowledge, fill out a certificate, beneath that of the town clerk, embracing all the further particulars required by law; and by merely enclosing these to the town clerk, the record becomes complete. The following is the form I propose.

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD.

An intention of marriage between Mr. *John Tolman*, of *Hapsburg, Mass.*, a *carpenter* by occupation, aged *twenty-eight*, a *widower*, son of *Jesse* and *Lucy Tolman*, and Miss *Sarah Beverly*, of *Litchfield, Mass.*, aged *twenty-three*, daughter of *Stephen* and *Eliza Williams Beverly*, hath been entered with me for the space of fourteen days, and due publication thereof made as the law directs.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this *twenty-first* day of *May*, 1845.

JOSEPH BAXTER, *Town Clerk*.

The clergyman or other person solemnizing the Marriage of the above described parties is requested to fill out the following certificate, and enclose both certificates "To the Town Clerk of" the town *within which the Marriage takes place*.

On the *twenty-second* day of *May*, 1845, the above described parties were united in marriage at *Litchfield*, by me, *Joseph Bandon*, a *clergyman*, residing in *Stockton, Mass.*

"I send you herewith a specimen of blank certificates upon this plan. Should you be disposed to use them, such further supply as you may desire will be delivered at this office to your order.

"Blanks of the following tenor, to be placed in the hands of sextons, &c., for the Returns required in the fourth section of the Act, will also be furnished to you at this office, if, in your opinion, they would be found convenient.

I certify that, on the *thirtieth* day of *June*, 1845, I attended at the funeral of *George Stacey*, who, as I am informed and believe, was a *single man*, a *shipwright* by occupation, aged *forty* years, *six* months, and *three* days, son of *Robert* and *Caroline Stacey*, born in *Albany, New York*, and died in *Capua, Mass.*, of *typhus fever*, on the *twenty-sixth* day of *June*, 1845.

BENJAMIN MUNSON, *Sexton*.

"Trusting that the Registration Returns of this year will prove to have a fulness and accuracy such as to answer the expectations of the Legislature in establishing the system,

I have the honor to be, Sir, &c."

The number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths returned from the several towns is in the first place given in full in the following pages, with the population of the towns according to the census of 1840 (pp. 1—10). The returns of the three preceding years since the adoption of the Registration system, exhibited in corresponding columns, show by comparison the progress of interest in the object during the four years. The number of Births returned in the Commonwealth in 1845, was greater than in any former year. (See Recapitulation by Counties, p. 11.) Those of Marriages and Deaths were not so large as in 1842 and 1843, before the law required so many particulars to be returned. But, on the other hand, they were in both cases larger than those of 1844, indicating that the new system is getting into favor.

Fifteen towns made no returns whatever, viz. Boston, in Suffolk County; Beverly, in Essex; Littleton and Tewksbury, in Middlesex; Douglas, in Worcester; Prescott, in Hampshire; Russell, in Hampden; Conway, in Franklin; Cheshire, Mount Washington, and Tyringham, in Berkshire; Walpole, in Norfolk; Hanson and Middleborough in Plymouth; and Dennis, in Barnstable. Ipswich, in Essex; Ashby, in Middlesex; Worcester, Upton, and Westborough, in Worcester; Chesterfield, in Hampshire; Holland, in Hampden; Montague and Northfield, in Franklin; Sandisfield and Great Barrington, in Berkshire; and Duxbury and Abington, in Plymouth (thirteen towns), returned no Births. West Cambridge, in Middlesex; Upton, in Worcester; Chester, in Hampden; Heath and Munroe, in Franklin; Dalton, Hancock, and Clarksburg, in Berkshire; and Rehoboth, in Bristol (nine towns), returned no Marriages. Dracut and West Cambridge, in Middlesex; Blackstone, Westborough, and Winchendon, in Worcester; Palmer, in Hampden; Greenfield and Northfield, in Franklin; Clarksburg and Great Barrington, in Berkshire; Roxbury, in Norfolk; Dartmouth and Pawtucket, in Bristol; and Abington, in Plymouth (fourteen towns), returned no Deaths. The return from Rochester, in Plymouth, was made too late to be incorporated in the tables. It represents 124 Births, and 11 Marriages, to have taken place during the Registration year.

The population in 1840 was 3,875. The absence of any return from the city of Boston is particularly to be regretted, not only because it contains a seventh or eighth part of the population of the Commonwealth, but because the peculiarity of the position and occupations of its citizens is connected with questions of special importance in relation to vital statistics.

In the Returns of the respective towns there is a great difference in respect to fulness and accuracy, not only in the statement of numbers, but also of the various other particulars required by law. The whole number of births and deaths returned probably does not very much exceed one half of what actually took place in the Commonwealth. That of marriages is probably about three quarters. The reasons of the great imperfection in many of the Returns are suggested in the very judicious communications of the town clerks, large extracts from which are collected in the body of Notes appended to the Synopsis of Returns (pp. 13—34).

Many of the Returns are made up to *June 1*, instead of *May 1st*, 1845. All entries of this kind are omitted in the following Synopsis and Tables, and should be inserted in the Returns of next year. The following extract from my letter of April 15, 1844, to the town clerks will show the true construction of the law upon that subject:—

“The first section directs the clerks to transmit, in June, a record ‘of births, marriages and deaths which have occurred within their respective towns during the year next preceding *the first day of said month*,’ while the second section directs the school committees annually to make returns in May, of ‘all the births which have happened during the year next preceding *the first day of said May*.’ The latter provision is so express as to leave no doubt of what was intended in respect to births; and it was evidently the intention of the Legislature that the registration year should have the same limits for marriages and deaths as for births. Further; the law, when it directs the Clerks to make their returns to the Secretary *in June*, leaves them at liberty to make it in the first days of that month, at which time the latest returns of marriages and deaths in their possession will be of such as took place in April. Accordingly, your annual return to this office will include births, marriages and deaths happening in the ‘year next preceding the first day of *May*.’ ”

The Returns exhibit many births, and some marriages, which occurred in previous years. Such entries are of course passed over in the Synopsis and Tables. The town clerks have frequently entered the deaths of inhabitants of the town, dying in some other place. In disposing of such cases, the rule adopted in the following pages has been to include cases of death at sea or in a *foreign* port, but to omit all others, as being subjects of Registration in other parts of this country. When a town clerk has returned the death of an inhabitant of his town, as taking place in some other part of the Commonwealth, the entry has been transferred to the town in which the death took place.

In the arrangement of the Tables, a thing to be perfected by degrees, I persuade myself that a considerable improvement has been made on the plan of preceding years.

Table I relates to Births, and is divided into two parts. The first part (p. 35) exhibits the number of male and female children, and of those whose sex is not reported, born respectively in the several months and in the several counties. The labor of making this abstract for each of the *towns*, as was done last year (Third Registration Report, pp. 1—18,) was thought not to be compensated by any advantage resulting from so minute a specification. The second part (p. 36) exhibits the cases of more than one child at a birth, arranged under the heads of months, counties, and sex. It corresponds to the table on p. 21, of the last year's Report, with the additional item of the sex of children born in plurality cases in the respective months.

Table II, also in two parts, relates to Marriages. The first part (p. 37) exhibits a view of the number of marriages which in each month were solemnized in each county of the Commonwealth. The second part (pp. 38—40), in a very ingenious form of entry adopted from the Belgian abstract of M. Quetelet, presents at one view the facts important to be observed in Statistical Tables in relation to the age and condition of parties to the marriage tie. For the same reason as that given above in respect to Births, it was thought inexpedient, at the cost of so much space and labor as would have been required, to specify these particulars under the heads of the respective *towns*. Table II corresponds to the table in three parts, which occupies pp. 23—41 of last year's Report. The subject of age at the time of marriage, presented in the third part of the table relating to

Marriages in that Report (p. 41), will be found more fully treated in the Appendix to the present Report, (p. 75 *et seq.*)

Tables III, IV, and V, exhibit an abstract of the facts obtained from the town Returns of Deaths.

Table III, in four parts, relates to the Causes of Death. In the first part (pp. 41—48), against the names of the respective diseases alphabetically arranged, is recorded the number of persons who died of the same during the year, with a specification of the sex, proximate age, month of decease, and place of birth, so far as to distinguish between natives of the American town where they died, other Americans, and foreigners. The second part (pp. 49—54), against the names of the diseases, scientifically arranged, presents the number of deaths therefrom in the several counties. These two parts cover the same ground as Tables III and VI, and the first three parts of Table IV, of last year's Report (pp. 42—77, 98—110). The specification of deaths in the several towns, and of the sex of persons deceased in each several month, has been omitted this year in the tables relating to Deaths for the same reason as that given above in respect to Births and Marriages. The subject of the average age at death, presented in Table IV, part 3, of last year's Report (p. 77), will be found much more fully treated in the Appendix to the present Report, (p. 88 *et seq.*) And the same is true of the proportion of deaths at different periods of life, and in different counties, exhibited in the fourth and fifth parts of Table IV, of last year's Report (pp. 78, 79). On the other hand, the particulars relating to the native place of deceased persons, (p. 41 *et seq.*.) are now for the first time introduced.

The third part of Table III (pp. 55—58) presents a synopsis of the number of deaths from each disease, or other cause, which took place according to the Returns, in 1845 and the three preceding years respectively. The proportion of the number of each class in each year to the number 10,000 is carried out in four other columns, affording the means of a perfect comparison of the proportional mortality from different causes, so far as the Returns furnish the requisite materials. The fourth part of the same table (p. 59), under the heads of the respective counties, exhibits the returns of still-born children, with a specification of the sex.

Table IV (pp. 60—63), designed to illustrate the influence of

occupation on longevity, exhibits the number and average age at the time of death, of persons engaged respectively in the different employments of life, as shown by the Returns of 1845 and the three preceding years. This table corresponds to Table V, of last year's Report. The comparison of the Returns of four years for this purpose is an important extension of the plan pursued last year. On the other hand, the distinction then made of deaths from the various causes, as reported from the respective *counties*, was thought not to be sufficiently useful to be repeated at present.

Table V (p. 64), designed to furnish some illustration of the influence of domestic condition on longevity, exhibits against each county, an abstract of the Returns of the number, sex, and age of persons deceased in the last Registration year, under the divisions of single, married, and widowed.

For various interesting views of the importance of the Registration system, together with some general inferences from the recent Returns, and comparisons of the facts hitherto collected in Massachusetts with similar *data* obtained from the documents of other countries, I refer to the letter, in the Appendix to this Report, from Mr. Lemuel Shattuck, of whose intelligent and experienced aid I have availed myself in the preparation of the tables.

Which is respectfully submitted by

JOHN G. PALFREY, *Secretary*.

REGISTRATION
OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS
IN
MASSACHUSETTS.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS,

Returned to the Secretary's Office, for the four years, ending April 30th,

1842, 1843, 1844, and 1845.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
SUFFOLK CO.													
Boston, . . .	93,383	19	4	.	.	738	776	.	.	1919	2230	.	.
Chelsea, . . .	2,390	82	87	111	147	30	8	29	22	87	113	88	94
Totals, . . .	95,773	101	91	111	147	768	784	29	22	2006	2343	88	94
ESSEX CO.													
Amesbury, . . .	2,471	11	22	48	50	8	23	11	11	11	43	18	35
Andover, . . .	5,207	35	21	148	118	21	37	19	30	50	64	65	85
Beverly, . . .	4,689	40	51	.	.	45	39	.	.	72	97	.	.
Boxford, . . .	942	10	5	35	18	10	12	11	7	8	6	7	12
Bradford, . . .	2,222	49	26	45	55	10	7	8	14	43	26	34	24
Danvers, . . .	5,020	45	13	159	194	38	33	51	50	29	15	86	89
Essex, . . .	1,450	.	29	28	19	.	7	8	11	.	20	15	17
Georgetown, . . .	1,540	39	36	46	56	15	25	15	14	21	10	18	15
Gloucester, . . .	6,350	105	211	167	229	52	52	72	52	82	83	106	121
Hamilton, . . .	818	22	13	16	16	9	8	4	9	16	16	18	18
Haverhill, . . .	4,336	.	3	.	106	.	38	37	38	.	2	78	74
Ipswich, . . .	3,000	.	4	52	.	23	16	19	27	40	45	64	42
Lynn, . . .	9,367	40	41	.	296	58	29	.	90	74	116	.	200
Lynnfield, . . .	707	13	23	20	15	6	6	1	3	6	11	7	11
Manchester, . . .	1,355	54	54	45	54	20	10	7	20	45	26	29	40
Marblehead, . . .	5,575	194	169	194	164	43	39	43	66	113	104	115	118
Methuen, . . .	2,251	65	65	69	46	28	24	23	16	29	28	28	49
Middleton, . . .	637	21	13	18	17	6	3	3	5	13	14	11	9
Newbury, . . .	3,789	.	49	33	8	.	17	9	20	.	42	55	31
Newburyport, . . .	7,161	296	167	189	227	61	63	62	67	114	139	114	115
Rockport, . . .	2,650	74	87	72	78	19	23	23	27	52	56	54	31
Rowley, . . .	1,203	16	11	32	19	4	11	6	7	16	15	20	18
Salem, . . .	15,082	.	486	3	225	145	147	94	122	287	285	260	244
Salisbury, . . .	2,739	30	43	54	56	20	34	23	21	37	57	28	39
Saugus, . . .	1,098	30	30	28	32	18	13	5	8	22	35	21	15
Topsfield, . . .	1,059	3	5	16	34	5	4	9	9	15	35	21	23
Wenham, . . .	689	25	22	19	14	9	7	9	6	9	9	6	10
West Newbury, . . .	1,560	25	25	45	29	10	15	11	8	16	22	14	19
Totals, . . .	94,987	1242	1724	1581	2175	683	742	583	758	1220	1421	1292	1504

4 FOURTH REGISTRATION REPORT.

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—Continued.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
MIDDLESEX CO.													
Acton,	1,121	.	.	13	7	5	11	8	14	16	10	22	22
Ashby,	1,246	36	20	24	.	17	14	3	8	23	23	23	26
Bedford,	929	.	7	27	27	.	7	6	11	.	21	20	17
Billerica,	1,632	1	4	44	54	15	8	10	18	31	25	21	17
Boxborough,	426	10	10	13	9	7	9	3	3	4	5	5	5
Brighton,	1,425	9	5	56	60	7	7	5	8	14	18	17	24
Burlington,	510	10	.	8	16	1	4	3	3	7	12	9	4
Cambridge,	8,409	8	19	364	354	39	53	80	74	91	154	139	110
Carlisle,	556	1	7	10	11	2	1	6	4	9	5	8	9
Charlestown and } Somerville, . . . }	11,484	6	20	321	387	104	107	97	142	161	200	192	228
Chelmsford,	1,697	17	18	56	50	20	9	11	13	28	3	2	13
Concord,	1,784	6	6	39	44	13	6	9	17	44	26	25	27
Dracut,	2,188	1	5	74	71	14	8	12	15	3	12	2	.
Dunstable,	603	.	5	7	11	.	6	1	3	.	6	9	10
Framingham,	3,030	.	12	91	78	.	20	24	32	.	16	50	14
Groton,	2,139	45	59	57	59	17	19	13	15	42	36	44	50
Holliston,	1,782	78	63	56	41	15	13	13	14	45	40	24	38
Hopkinton,	2,245	52	.	63	65	32	.	12	28	55	.	11	41
Lexington,	1,642	18	1	36	30	19	11	4	12	19	.	2	16
Lincoln,	686	15	8	4	5	2	1	6	5	13	8	.	4
Littleton,	927	9	12	4	.	13	7	6	.	11	10	9	.
Lowell,	20,796	20	7	598	664	366	363	307	397	421	439	348	309
Malden,	2,514	8	39	85	86	22	4	21	14	19	18	37	47
Marlborough,	2,101	65	64	52	53	27	20	20	28	28	25	30	25
Medford,	2,478	100	106	57	78	14	25	34	33	29	27	44	36
Natick,	1,285	6	31	45	51	8	10	15	15	16	25	20	31
Newton,	3,351	4	2	2	4	17	23	8	20	22	32	30	26
Pepperell,	1,571	29	21	29	38	14	16	15	12	18	18	21	20
Reading,	2,193	1	59	69	60	19	21	15	16	.	36	47	34
Sherburne,	995	22	27	19	17	2	10	10	8	17	22	14	9
Shirley,	957	16	18	29	38	9	10	7	8	4	13	17	18
South Reading,	1,517	30	60	30	41	25	13	11	27	23	23	44	22
Stoneham,	1,017	33	6	26	34	12	7	15	8	13	11	6	21
Stow,	1,230	.	2	48	2	.	12	5	10	.	1	13	8
Sudbury,	1,422	26	15	38	37	14	14	12	13	36	20	14	15
Tewksbury,	906	.	4	7	.	4	7	2	.	9	10	5	.
Townsend,	1,892	.	.	39	53	16	11	7	8	23	22	25	25
Tyngsborough,	870	29	24	16	19	9	6	7	4	14	15	6	9
Waltham,	2,504	72	31	75	61	30	26	27	24	59	39	43	35
Watertown,	1,810	62	.	50	60	20	.	21	6	29	.	31	25
Wayland,	998	34	28	24	27	6	13	2	5	16	16	19	10
West Cambridge,	1,363	35	37	.	46	11	19	.	.	26	33	.	.
Westford,	1,436	27	17	18	12	7	9	4	8	21	29	17	14
Weston,	1,092	13	26	28	18	8	9	7	8	15	21	18	14
Wilmington,	859	33	15	15	23	10	12	6	12	17	13	12	17
Woburn,	2,993	5	3	46	94	25	39	33	42	58	42	50	53
Totals,	106,611	992	930	2814	3050	1037	1022	949	1168	1549	1598	1553	1506

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, &c. FOR FOUR YEARS.

5

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—Continued.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
WORCESTER CO.													
Ashburnham, . . .	1,652	54	44	58	32	18	18	18	10	31	33	34	38
Athol, . . .	1,591	50	49	46	51	18	12	15	8	35	27	19	33
Auburn, . . .	649	10	3	13	23	4	6	4	6	9	8	7	5
Barre, . . .	2,751	73	75	.	68	21	21	19	12	40	41	43	35
Berlin, . . .	763	8	13	24	24	1	6	1	5	12	17	16	9
Blackstone, . . .	.	.	.	.	63	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Bolton, . . .	1,186	27	42	23	30	4	11	5	6	18	21	26	19
Boylston, . . .	797	8	9	19	15	7	9	11	7	14	15	9	9
Brookfield, . . .	2,472	.	.	55	62	19	.	8	9	52	.	.	27
Charlton, . . .	2,117	7	25	6	9	20	20	16	11	15	39	43	30
Dana, . . .	691	.	24	18	24	4	19	4	6	10	14	.	11
Douglas, . . .	1,617	20	22	49	.	20	17	3	.	18	16	14	.
Dudley, . . .	1,352	.	23	22	41	.	5	6	10	.	12	22	19
Fitchburg, . . .	2,604	7	88	76	91	23	30	25	37	1	37	3	56
Gardner, . . .	1,260	54	31	36	44	14	12	14	11	23	30	20	18
Grafton, . . .	2,943	18	35	79	111	56	47	36	28	36	24	55	54
Hardwick, . . .	1,789	.	50	50	33	14	19	6	18	23	25	19	30
Harvard, . . .	1,571	30	20	27	33	13	13	8	13	22	21	25	21
Holden, . . .	1,874	61	46	59	70	15	17	16	25	27	25	42	36
Hubbardston, . . .	1,784	53	52	58	33	13	27	14	17	20	24	41	28
Lancaster, . . .	2,019	6	26	21	7	19	12	16	17	24	39	42	17
Leicester, . . .	1,707	55	28	48	47	7	18	8	14	31	26	33	24
Leominster, . . .	2,069	3	45	69	64	20	14	17	11	38	40	49	28
Lunenburg, . . .	1,272	1	9	24	1	12	7	5	4	22	19	13	18
Mendon, . . .	3,524	47	4	129	33	31	10	19	17	30	38	21	48
Milford, . . .	1,773	55	72	84	61	15	26	19	43	17	37	42	43
Millbury, . . .	2,171	61	58	62	69	16	14	20	24	23	13	35	34
New Braintree, . . .	752	21	6	17	10	7	5	3	6	12	6	10	9
North Brookfield, . . .	1,485	40	2	55	44	15	13	13	14	29	23	29	14
Northborough, . . .	1,248	18	9	26	29	9	7	15	19	18	21	22	22
Northbridge, . . .	1,449	20	20	35	46	16	8	13	13	13	17	23	46
Oakham, . . .	1,038	22	34	19	31	9	6	9	13	28	15	7	12
Oxford, . . .	1,742	19	19	39	53	14	17	12	16	22	31	32	31
Paxton, . . .	670	15	5	20	24	6	9	10	5	12	.	13	15
Petersham, . . .	1,775	29	2	4	34	20	20	11	10	19	26	18	10
Phillipston, . . .	919	2	13	23	16	5	5	8	6	14	17	8	10
Princeton, . . .	1,347	40	4	37	44	12	5	11	11	21	17	21	35
Royalston, . . .	1,667	45	6	31	44	12	12	9	13	22	17	23	19
Rutland, . . .	1,260	25	27	25	30	8	11	10	7	21	15	21	18
Shrewsbury, . . .	1,481	6	29	42	24	13	9	9	7	21	12	35	26
Southborough, . . .	1,145	27	23	22	32	10	1	8	14	19	13	21	22
Southbridge, . . .	2,031	5	58	10	29	14	18	15	20	26	25	41	22
Spencer, . . .	1,604	.	36	28	54	.	22	12	18	.	28	35	22
Sterling, . . .	1,647	10	9	50	38	14	17	9	18	5	31	32	6
Sturbridge, . . .	2,005	8	4	50	36	12	13	14	6	42	33	37	34
Sutton, . . .	2,370	10	7	48	52	14	19	23	22	15	20	17	45
Templeton, . . .	1,776	2	13	39	37	5	19	6	14	16	23	17	28
Upton, . . .	1,466	47	56	42	.	16	19	11	.	22	25	22	26
Uxbridge, . . .	2,004	31	51	57	58	19	10	14	21	37	31	35	42
Warren, . . .	1,290	37	25	41	35	13	5	7	8	10	18	33	23

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—Continued.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Webster,	1,403	9	31	50	57	12	8	11	6	3	15	33	18
West Boylston,	1,187	25	33	37	33	13	8	11	16	23	18	16	29
Westborough,	1,658	. . .	30	41	. . .	16	22	10	14	27	32	15	. . .
Westminster,	1,645	5	13	5	52	13	14	6	13	13	30	20	23
Winchendon,	1,754	40	41	. . .	35	20	19	6	14	28	25	. . .	. . .
Worcester,	7,497	9	44	263	. . .	159	84	86	79	158	144	160	230
Totals,	95,313	1275	1543	2311	2116	900	835	715	793	1287	1369	1469	1527
HAMPSHIRE CO.													
Amherst,	2,550	77	78	74	76	21	18	17	19	49	65	57	54
Belchertown,	2,554	. . .	40	. . .	23	28	45	24	16	. . .	36	37	26
Chesterfield,	1,132	. . .	6	7	. . .	2	4	4	5	17	12	16	15
Cummington,	1,237	18	11	16	24	10	2	12	17	16	15	20	10
Easthampton,	717	17	13	17	18	2	7	5	2	8	16	19	13
Enfield,	976	35	29	13	17	8	6	7	7	7	15	12	13
Goshen,	556	12	13	14	11	5	4	1	4	10	13	12	10
Granby,	971	7	11	16	16	3	3	6	9	20	26	10	16
Greenwich,	824	11	20	18	15	7	9	5	3	11	10	13	16
Hadley,	1,814	51	. . .	42	35	25	. . .	8	14	30	. . .	45	26
Hatfield,	933	30	21	26	28	8	16	4	3	9	11	19	14
Middlefield,	1,717	89	15	20	35	4	6	10	2	11	10	16	13
Northampton,	3,750	125	87	130	137	42	16	12	18	59	94	59	54
Norwich,	750	. . .	18	26	14	. . .	8	9	2	. . .	10	18	27
Pelham,	956	17	8	7	14	10	13	6	5	6	7	10	. . .
Plainfield,	910	. . .	23	. . .	2	9	14	. . .	6	21	14	. . .	13
Prescott,	780	15	10	. . .	. . .	8	8	. . .	. . .	12	7	. . .	. . .
South Hadley,	1,458	24	40	49	44	14	15	11	7	23	31	22	19
Southampton,	1,157	23	23	33	25	8	11	9	11	15	18	28	13
Ware,	1,890	. . .	1	53	38	. . .	19	15	33	. . .	42	43	35
Westhampton,	759	11	11	17	16	4	3	4	2	13	14	13	9
Williamsburg,	1,309	25	23	33	29	14	19	6	6	15	22	16	19
Worthington,	1,197	32	34	31	36	7	10	5	8	25	30	23	15
Totals,	30,897	619	535	642	653	239	256	180	199	377	518	508	430
HAMPDEN CO.													
Blandford,	1,427	35	42	29	20	22	17	7	2	25	26	23	17
Brimfield,	1,419	. . .	2	. . .	16	11	6	8	5	16	30	26	18
Chester,	1,632	10	25	28	34	10	19	6	. . .	15	14	27	7
Granville,	1,414	. . .	. . .	5	22	. . .	7	7	3	. . .	26	18	5
Holland,	423	4	1	. . .	. . .	2	2	6	5	6	. . .	. . .	3
Longmeadow,	1,270	31	7	34	21	7	3	7	10	14	25	19	25
Ludlow,	1,268	28	24	36	36	10	9	8	13	23	21	19	33
Monson,	2,151	50	28	30	59	32	34	11	4	25	52	30	41
Montgomery,	740	14	8	12	14	5	8	1	4	9	8	4	10
Palmer,	2,139	40	. . .	53	54	15	. . .	9	14	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Russell,	955	9	4	10	. . .	5	2	1	. . .	6	6	2	. . .
Southwick,	1,214	. . .	32	. . .	34	. . .	11	. . .	7	. . .	21	. . .	13
Springfield,	10,985	372	405	173	128	73	67	48	. . .	132	191
Tolland,	627	. . .	7	. . .	19	. . .	4	7	2	. . .	15	12	12

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, &c. FOR FOUR YEARS.

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ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—Continued.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Wales,	686	25	18	18	15	17	4	6	3	19	20	9	7
West Springfield, . . .	3,626	.	1	42	60	18	16	29	24	11	29	17	36
Westfield,	3,526	.	66	91	99	24	23	27	15	56	53	56	57
Wilbraham,	1,864	6	3	.	29	7	6	.	15	22	11	.	34
Totals,	37,366	252	268	760	937	358	299	213	193	295	357	394	509
FRANKLIN CO.													
Ashfield,	1,610	2	4	2	37	21	19	.	3	6	20	25	33
Bernardston,	992	17	22	24	20	14	4	5	10	15	8	17	7
Buckland,	1,084	2	.	20	19	6	8	8	7	18	.	6	9
Charlemont,	1,127	25	24	31	35	12	6	6	3	16	20	18	10
Coleraine,	1,971	.	78	35	35	.	6	4	12	.	20	26	30
Conway,	1,409	21	8	46	.	14	9	9	.	9	17	27	.
Deerfield,	1,912	.	.	.	51	12	8	.	15	36	44	.	21
Erving,	309	3	1	10	10	2	.	.	3	4	8	.	5
Gill,	798	27	17	22	14	5	6	5	4	7	20	10	9
Greenfield,	1,756	58	.	32	3	12	.	6	2	40	.	34	.
Hawley,	1,977	22	10	18	13	2	3	6	3	14	10	17	8
Heath,	895	.	20	14	29	.	4	.	none	.	10	4	22
Leverett,	875	23	10	17	29	8	10	8	8	13	17	22	13
Leyden,	632	22	20	29	9	2	12	4	3	13	5	11	10
Monroe,	282	8	10	7	11	.	.	.	none	1	6	1	3
Montague,	1,255	2	.	32	.	7	2	3	2	21	18	.	12
New Salem,	1,305	35	9	20	35	11	11	4	6	24	12	9	31
Northfield,	1,673	.	21	30	.	.	1	4	5	.	3	11	.
Orange,	1,501	40	7	29	32	9	6	5	15	30	14	18	22
Rowe,	703	15	19	30	13	4	7	8	3	6	14	15	11
Shelburne,	1,022	24	16	22	33	6	4	6	10	11	25	24	10
Shutesbury,	987	22	3	21	24	8	10	4	13	16	4	7	11
Sunderland,	719	12	8	23	10	5	9	6	1	9	10	6	5
Warwick,	1,071	29	12	18	35	8	11	4	8	16	29	21	23
Wendell,	875	21	20	19	4	3	13	3	5	12	15	12	11
Whately,	1,072	24	15	25	27	6	7	7	10	9	9	20	15
Totals,	28,812	454	354	576	528	177	176	115	151	353	358	360	331
BERKSHIRE CO.													
Adams,	3,703	.	.	.	102	.	.	.	15	.	.	.	78
Alford,	481	9	9	13	10	3	2	3	4	5	11	7	2
Becket,	1,342	12	12	18	29	8	8	7	7	9	13	24	31
Boston Corner,	65	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cheshire,	985	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Clarksburg,	370	10	9	9	8	3	2	.	.	3	4	.	.
Dalton,	1,255	31	37	40	42	8	6	3	.	18	14	11	14
Egremont,	1,038	.	16	19	28	3	4	3	2	.	11	11	5
Florida,	441	15	2	19	5	8	.	.	2	4	2	3	3
Great Barrington, . . .	2,704	68	.	.	.	11	3	10	3	30	15	38	.
Hancock,	922	.	7	21	19	.	.	1	.	.	13	4	12
Hinsdale,	955	25	27	41	21	1	4	3	6	19	16	17	16
Lanesborough,	1,140	28	.	31	18	5	8	.	2	17	11	12	11

FOURTH REGISTRATION REPORT.

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—Continued.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Lee,	2,428	62	57	29	34	15	15	20	8	51	38	28	40
Lenox,	1,313	. . .	6	35	39	6	4	8	7	1	13	21	29
Mount Washington,	438	21	12	13	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	7	5	2	. . .
New Ashford,	227	7	2	5	2	1	2	1	1	7	3	1	. . .
New Marlborough,	1,682	45	4	41	28	12	. . .	14	9	28	15	25	11
Otis,	1,177	36	. . .	12	28	10	7	10	2	30	23	6	8
Peru,	576	13	12	17	12	6	2	1	5	13	12	11	3
Pittsfield,	3,747	56	51	87	101	4	4	1	3	74	51	56	61
Richmond,	1,097	6	12	11	11	6	4	4	3	29	10	14	10
Sandisfield,	1,464	20	1	21	. . .	7	5	13	11	26	. . .	21	32
Savoy,	915	1	1	13	6	6	4	3	4	2	1	3	1
Sheffield,	2,322	. . .	. . .	49	78	. . .	10	7	7	. . .	48	28	35
Stockbridge,	1,992	30	. . .	41	33	8	. . .	2	9	22	. . .	35	25
Tyringham,	1,477	6	8	5	. . .	6	4	9	. . .	4	6	25	. . .
Washington,	991	18	24	22	29	2	3	2	1	19	11	12	14
West Stockbridge,	1,448	. . .	2	54	49	. . .	9	8	4	. . .	10	20	16
Williamstown,	2,153	29	33	57	78	18	10	2	11	32	31	. . .	22
Windsor,	897	. . .	. . .	. . .	12	. . .	. . .	. . .	6	. . .	. . .	. . .	9
Totals,	41,745	548	344	723	822	157	121	135	132	450	387	435	488
NORFOLK CO.													
Bellingham,	1,055	16	19	30	12	5	11	7	2	10	24	11	8
Braintree,	2,168	55	27	59	69	24	24	14	6	38	23	10	27
Brookline,	1,365	5	6	13	21	8	5	8	8	14	8	15	25
Canton,	1,995	. . .	7	65	27	. . .	11	17	7	. . .	19	35	32
Cohasset,	1,471	23	31	24	33	19	8	16	10	19	28	28	18
Dedham,	3,290	98	96	90	96	30	31	31	33	60	63	50	70
Dorchester,	4,875	34	13	28	91	44	46	21	47	86	80	78	79
Dover,	520	3	3	8	6	1	3	1	3	9	15	11	8
Foxborough,	1,298	20	43	24	51	10	7	11	17	17	37	18	18
Franklin,	1,717	35	30	23	33	15	9	10	5	24	21	28	29
Medfield,	883	20	9	9	18	6	6	6	4	14	16	18	7
Medway,	2,043	7	6	66	65	33	23	25	29	2	24	14	26
Milton,	1,822	. . .	7	49	58	. . .	12	11	16	. . .	50	38	25
Needham,	1,488	36	8	45	33	14	7	9	4	23	28	26	17
Quincy,	3,486	125	4	147	123	32	20	23	21	48	46	56	53
Randolph,	3,213	. . .	107	92	138	. . .	23	32	28	. . .	64	71	55
Roxbury,	9,089	8	7	304	411	37	49	26	78	42	44	. . .	. . .
Sharon,	1,076	4	1	26	22	7	8	9	12	17	26	15	14
Stoughton,	2,142	36	. . .	68	86	39	26	35	23	32	8	4	36
Walpole,	1,491	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	16	. . .	. . .	. . .	25	. . .	. . .
Weymouth,	3,738	120	7	145	139	31	39	32	35	55	17	21	62
Wrentham,	2,915	. . .	13	77	59	17	23	16	16	. . .	16	8	48
Totals,	53,140	645	445	1392	1591	370	407	360	404	510	682	555	657
BRISTOL CO.													
Attleborough,	3,585	82	3	78	81	30	26	33	25	45	1	60	66
Berkley,	886	20	20	20	12	10	10	4	2	16	13	17	26
Dartmouth,	4,135	. . .	2	122	92	23	24	33	27	. . .	1

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, &c. FOR FOUR YEARS.

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ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—Continued.

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Dighton,	1,378	2	.	36	47	15	7	19	7	16	22	15	32
Easton,	2,074	70	4	42	53	24	12	8	19	27	1	52	39
Fairhaven, . . .	3,951	162	170	74	107	39	47	10	34	33	35	33	45
Fall River, . . .	6,738	375	307	310	379	84	120	81	73	69	135	76	55
Freetown,	1,772	.	.	47	43	.	.	5	10	.	.	22	31
Mansfield, . . .	1,382	49	3	34	43	19	11	10	12	19	23	.	17
New Bedford, . .	12,087	.	5	443	435	.	90	131	114	.	.	1	175
Norton,	1,545	6	11	36	29	16	9	3	8	6	5	8	6
Pawtucket, . . .	2,184	142	.	104	89	10	14	14	13	34	.	6	.
Raynham,	1,329	1	3	43	40	4	4	12	4	21	26	24	19
Rehoboth,	2,169	45	46	55	55	34	35	16	.	32	31	20	25
Seekonk,	1,996	25	.	47	9	23	13	24	9	35	1	35	39
Somerset,	1,005	.	1	24	14	.	4	4	6	.	2	34	24
Swansey,	1,484	.	.	36	32	8	17	9	11	.	.	.	15
Taunton,	7,645	5	1	192	219	43	54	57	43	52	64	73	73
Westport,	2,820	.	.	82	73	33	.	10	2	26	.	39	32
Totals,	60,165	984	576	1825	1852	415	497	483	419	431	360	515	719
PLYMOUTH CO.													
Abington,	3,214	89	120	113	.	28	37	27	39	56	64	75	.
Bridgewater, . . .	2,131	.	65	44	71	.	15	4	12	.	37	45	40
Carver,	995	30	10	35	30	2	7	2	14	9	15	5	1
Duxbury,	2,798	93	52	33	.	32	35	19	10	26	33	19	19
East Bridgewater, .	1,950	20	54	30	58	12	11	9	11	21	23	24	19
Halifax,	734	21	22	30	36	7	5	7	2	13	14	17	21
Hanover,	1,488	20	47	41	18	17	13	16	14	15	10	20	16
Hanson,	1,040	17	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	2	.	.	61
Hingham,	3,564	117	102	94	86	24	29	35	22	57	55	57	61
Hull,	231	5	5	3	6	.	1	3	2	6	1	2	7
Kingston,	1,440	15	30	35	32	12	10	15	16	23	35	26	25
Marshfield, . . .	1,761	40	45	47	41	10	30	16	16	36	55	34	23
Middleborough, . .	5,085	17	25	.	.	30	32	.	.	22	13	.	.
N. Bridgewater, . .	2,616	76	85	96	70	20	20	22	35	52	52	50	32
Pembroke,	1,258	6	31	17	33	8	7	11	2	9	30	16	19
Plymouth,	5,281	.	34	151	122	.	20	30	41	.	57	81	110
Plympton,	834	22	20	24	19	9	5	8	10	10	18	22	10
Rochester,	3,864	.	65	.	.	19	35	.	.	.	34	.	.
Scituate,	3,886	46	35	88	84	28	19	28	22	63	60	52	43
Wareham,	2,002	40	46	65	66	15	13	9	11	21	25	32	22
West Bridgewater, .	1,201	32	30	31	39	13	12	8	9	12	12	29	16
Totals,	47,373	706	923	977	811	297	356	269	288	453	643	606	484
BARNSTABLE CO.													
Barnstable, . . .	4,301	.	18	8	10	.	25	21	38	.	26	15	38
Brewster,	1,522	.	22	31	44	.	11	8	7	.	26	13	22
Chatham,	2,334	60	5	75	35	28	22	18	15	44	70	50	35
Dennis,	2,942	40	48	62	.	13	19	23	.	39	21	33	.
Eastham,	955	27	14	17	13	8	7	3	12	22	21	10	14
Falmouth,	2,589	60	.	72	66	24	19	.	20	29	36	33	37

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—*Continued.*

COUNTIES AND TOWNS.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Harwich, . . .	2,930	200	47	87	105	28	42	19	23	21	11	16	34
Marshpee, . . .	309	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Orleans, . . .	1,974	33	45	34	45	12	19	23	8	18	26	44	27
Provincetown, . . .	2,122	42	85	76	61	25	24	25	22	18	59	41	41
Sandwich, . . .	3,719	63	89	112	118	20	14	23	24	18	18	32	58
Truro, . . .	1,920	71	.	36	55	16	.	12	20	80	.	32	30
Wellfleet, . . .	2,377	45	20	59	44	13	10	13	12	35	32	23	24
Yarmouth, . . .	2,554	48	61	75	79	29	11	13	21	47	51	66	48
Totals,	32,548	689	454	744	675	216	223	201	222	371	397	408	408
DUKES CO.													
Chilmark, . . .	702	13	12	10	12	3	7	5	3	10	8	9	4
Edgartown, . . .	1,736	.	34	30	55	13	12	8	10	26	26	13	26
Tisbury, . . .	1,520	51	55	53	60	7	11	21	11	22	22	26	23
Totals,	3,958	64	101	93	127	23	30	34	24	58	56	48	53
NANTUCKET CO.													
Nantucket, . . .	9,012	.	462	208	227	102	59	38	90	184	195	107	134

RECAPITULATION.

COUNTIES.	Popula- tion in 1840.	BIRTHS.				MARRIAGES.				DEATHS.			
		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Suffolk, . .	95,773	101	91	111	147	768	784	29	22	2006	2,343	88	94
Essex, . .	94,987	1242	1724	15,81	2,175	683	742	583	758	1220	1,421	1292	1504
Middlesex, .	106,611	992	930	2,814	3,050	1037	1022	949	1168	1549	1,598	1553	1506
Worcester, .	95,313	1275	1543	2,311	2,116	900	835	715	793	1287	1,369	1469	1527
Hampshire, .	30,897	619	535	642	653	239	256	180	199	377	518	508	430
Hampden, .	37,366	252	268	760	937	358	299	213	193	295	357	394	509
Franklin, .	28,812	454	354	576	528	177	176	115	151	353	358	360	331
Berkshire, .	41,745	548	344	723	822	157	121	135	132	450	387	435	488
Norfolk, . .	53,140	645	445	1,392	1,591	370	407	360	404	510	682	555	657
Bristol, . .	60,165	984	576	1,825	1,852	415	497	483	419	431	360	515	719
Plymouth, .	47,373	706	923	977	811	297	356	269	288	453	643	606	484
Barnstable, .	32,548	689	454	744	675	216	223	201	222	371	397	408	408
Dukes, . .	3,958	64	101	93	127	23	30	34	24	58	56	48	53
Nantucket, .	9,012	.	462	208	227	102	59	38	90	184	195	107	134
Totals, . .	737,700	8571	8750	14,757	15,711	5742	5807	4304	4863	9544	10684	8338	8844
Totals, after de- ducting Suffolk County, . .	641,927	8470	8659	14,646	15,564	4974	5023	4275	4841	7538	8,341	8250	8750



NOTES.

A part of the returns were accompanied with remarks by the town clerks. From these, the following notes have been compiled. The letters from the same source, contained in former reports, are also referred to. The design of these notes is to show the condition of registration through the State, the practical operation of existing laws on the subject, and the views of the town clerks in regard to such amendments as may be needed to render the system more perfect.

SUFFOLK COUNTY.

BOSTON.—1842. The return of deaths was for the year ending Dec. 31, 1842.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 12.—No return of births, marriages or deaths for 1844 or 1845.

CHELSEA.—1845. "The return is a correct copy of the records of the town of Chelsea, as to the number of deaths in the town, as returned to me by the several sextons. I believe there have been some deaths, of which I have no return, as the burial took place without the knowledge of any sexton of the town."

ESSEX COUNTY.

AMESBURY.—1845. *Births*. "The return is probably correct as regards the number of births, the sex, date of birth, and residence of parents. Three children not returned. Mother's name not known in one instance. Occupation not known in 8 instances.—*Marriages*. The number of certificates given in the same time, 34."

ANDOVER.—1842. "One clergyman has made no return of marriages in 6 years; not 20 births are returned annually, nor 5 deaths."—In 1844, about 50 publications.

BEVERLY.—1843. The number of births, probably 125.

ESSEX.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 12.

GLOUCESTER.—1842. Imperfect in every respect, except marriages.—1845. *Marriages*. "The returns of the clergymen have not been given as the law requires; the changes continually making in our population, render it impossible

to answer all the inquiries to be made; there being many foreigners marrying among us who cannot answer the questions with any degree of satisfaction as to their progenitors.—*Deaths*. There may be 8 or 10 deaths not entered on the above list. An out parish, 5 or 6 miles in extent, and whose inhabitants are much scattered, where deaths must have occurred, has made no return."

IPSWICH.—1842. Only 22 births recorded since 1806.—1845. "The returns are not so perfect as may be desired, but are the best I could make from the means in my possession. The School Committee have not furnished me with a return of births, therefore it is not in my power to make one to you."

LYNN.—1843. The return does not state the number of deaths, but there are 116 specified by name. The clerk complains that the law is disregarded.

NEWBURY.—1845. *Births*. "The School Committee have made no return of births, and I did not feel disposed to take any action on the subject. In addition to the above, which I collected in my immediate neighborhood, one physician informs me, that he attended the birth of 42 children in this town, during the year ending May 1, 1845."

ROCKPORT. The returns from this town have been made with great accuracy for the different years, by Mr. Pool, the town clerk. He says, in 1845, as to *Births*. "The facts contained in the above returns were all gleaned with great pains and care by personal inquiry.—*Deaths*. The above return is believed to be correct; although the number of deaths stated is at least one third less than the preceding year. I have not wholly relied on the returns of the sextons, (which, by the way, are approximating towards correctness,) but have ascertained and confirmed the facts by personal inquiry."

WEST NEWBURY.—1845. *Births*. "I have delayed sending till the last moment, hoping to have a more complete return, but am obliged, at this late day, to close, while two school districts remain unreported. I have done the best in my power to have them as they should be, yet they are all very imperfect.—*Marriages*. This is the best I can do from the returns."

NO RETURNS, in 1842, from *Essex, Haverhill, and Newbury*; in 1844, from *Beverly, Haverhill, and Lynn*; and in 1845, from *Beverly*, and of births from *Ipswich*.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

ACTON.—1842. *Births*, not recorded.—1844. Complete except the "number" and "occupation of the father" and "residence of the parents" in one instance only.

ASHBY.—1845. *Births*. The School Committee has made no return of births.

BILLERICA.—1842. *Births*. One birth only recorded; law neglected; some record whole families at once.—1843. Complains of want of returns.—1844. Very good return, collected by the School Committee.

BURLINGTON.—1842. *Births*. Few births recorded, and some not publicly known.—1843. The clerk thinks the law should oblige some one to complain of delinquents.

CAMBRIDGE.—1843. See 2d Report, p. 13.—1844. One foundling. Return contains 407, of whom 43 were born out of town, and are here rejected. Town

clerk supposes the number to have been 500, or 1 in 17 inhabitants. It is 1 in 23 of the census of 1840. The returns the two last years appear to be accurate.

CHARLESTOWN.—1845. "Every thing on my part has been done to obtain full and correct returns, from the proper sources, of the births, marriages, and deaths in this town, required by the registration act to be done; still the returns are unavoidably very defective. The whole number of marriages returned is short of the truth; for the clergyman of the Episcopal Church in this town has made no return of any marriage whatever, since officiating as such, I think over two years. There appears a reluctance, on the part of some of our clergymen, to comply with the registration law."

CHELMSFORD.—1843. See Second Report, p. 14.—1845. *Deaths*. "The third entry properly belongs to the return to be made next year. It got into this by the remissness of the sextons in making their return. I have returned all the numbers."

FRAMINGHAM.—1845. *Marriages*. "The above return is as full and correct as the certificates will admit of."—*Deaths*. "This is all that has been returned to me. It is undoubtedly an imperfect return."

GROTON.—1845. *Births*. "There were probably 8 or 10 more births in town last year, but I have not been able to obtain the particulars. I have waited for the School Committee, but they have made no returns. The births recorded, I have obtained from other sources."—*Marriages*. "The returns made by Rev. Messrs. Phelps and Sanderson, have been complete generally. The other clergymen returned only the date and fact of the marriage; the other particulars I have obtained from other sources, as fully as I was able."

HOLLISTON.—1843. "Great delinquency on the part of parents, &c."—1844. *Births*. "This return is believed to be complete."—1845. "The School Committee did not ascertain the *day of the month* in which the birth took place."—*Deaths*. "6 or 7 have died in town, but have been interred elsewhere, and I have no returns. From a sermon, preached here the first Sabbath in January last, the preacher said the whole number of deaths for the year was 42. I think he may have been correct. I think the sextons here have done their duty, and the returns they have made me are correct."

LEXINGTON.—1843. The records show 1 birth, 11 marriages, and no deaths. "Information derived from other sources than the records, show that there have been at least 23 deaths. The number of births to me unknown. I posted notice last year requesting the inhabitants to bring in the number of births, deaths &c., but to no purpose."

LINCOLN.—1845. *Births*. "Our School Committee utterly refuse to do any thing about making any returns. They made none last year; what I here return, I have picked up myself."—*Deaths*. "One sexton, being wholly unacquainted with the duties required of him, has neglected to make such returns as would be desirable. I make you as full returns as I can, with what I have to make them from."

MEDFORD.—1843. See Second Report, p. 15.

NATICK.—1843. See Second Report, p. 16.—1845. "I fear the returns are somewhat imperfect. The compensation allowed for fees is entirely inadequate for procuring the information sought by Legislative requirements. I have solicited the clergymen for a list of marriages, the sextons for an account of

deaths, and the School Committee for births, more frequently and with more earnestness, than good manners would always justify. And when the information comes, it is often contained on a small scrap of paper, sometimes without dates, and always without method or order. Our population is of a fluctuating character, very much made up of emigrants, some of whom choose not to be very particular in disclosing their origin; and when these persons die, or get married, we are left in the dark with regard to names, ages, places of residence, occupation, &c. &c. I have devoted several days exclusively to the arrangement, registration, copying, &c., and still, the whole is in no way to my satisfaction. Were I to make the returns as they have been made to me, perhaps the document might be as valuable as a sheet of wrapping paper."

NEWTON.—1842. Very imperfect.—1843. "The real number of deaths, probably 50, and births still larger."

PEPPERELL.—1844. *Births*. "This return was got up by myself by actual inquiry, as there were no returns made by parents."

READING.—1842. *Deaths*. No return of deaths has been made.

SHERBURNE.—1843. The returns were founded on information collected by the clerk.

SOUTH READING.—1845. "There were 7 births of the 41, which took place among the Irish laborers upon the rail-road, whose parents removed from the town before the end of the year, and, consequently, no further particulars were obtained."

SOMERVILLE. Population included in Charlestown. Supposed 1250. No census has been taken since the town was incorporated.

STONEHAM.—1843. *Births*. The real number of births, probably as many as 33.—Only 1 *death* reported to the town clerk. Last year he collected the facts himself.

TYNGSBOROUGH.—1842. "Returns made from other sources than the record."—1843. "During the last six months, more births have been entered upon the record than had been recorded for forty years before."—1845. "The return of *deaths* is not, nor could not be, complete, unless I had taken the trouble to ride into almost every quarter of the town, and personally made the inquiries necessary to obtain the information. The inhabitants do not, with a very few exceptions, give themselves the least trouble in regard to furnishing the clerk with the necessary information, and the sextons have hitherto totally neglected their duty on this point. I have called their attention to the subject, and trust, next year, the clerk may be enabled to make a full and complete return."

WESTFORD.—1843. "The births were probably more numerous. It is difficult to get returns."

WILMINGTON.—1843. "There have been but few births, deaths, or marriages, recorded for ten years."

WOBURN.—1843. Few births entered.—1844. Twelve births on the return were in January, February, March, and April, 1843, the record beginning January 3, 1843, and ending March 31, 1844.—The following are extracts of letters from the town clerk of Woburn, accompanying the returns for the year 1845:—

Births. "The return of births in the town of Woburn, for the year ending May

1st, 1845, is imperfect in some respects. I have used great exertions to ascertain and make record of all births happening in town, the past year, but I do not think these returns are full. More births, I have every reason to suppose, have happened in this town, than those embraced in this return. The whole number of births returned by the School Committee was 73. Believing their returns were not full, I called upon each physician in town, and they generously gave me their assistance in filling out my records. I received from them twenty births not returned by the committee. I was not able to ascertain from them the names of children, but only the date, and place of birth, names, and occupation of fathers. In some cases, physicians out of town, or midwives, have been in attendance, and the presumption is, that many of them have not been returned to me."

Marriages. "In the return of marriages from Woburn, for the year ending May 1st, 1845, there are 21 omissions, viz: age, 12, names of parents, 9. You will find, in most cases, the names of mothers not mentioned; those who made the returns to me were not particular about ascertaining such facts, which makes my returns imperfect in that respect. I thought it advisable to record the names of fathers that were deceased; all such cases are marked thus + in the returns. When these returns were made to me, there were 130 omissions, beside the names of mothers, and the facts I ascertained, as many as possible, from the parties married. One marriage has occurred in this town, not put down in this return; it was before a justice of the peace, who resides at some distance from the centre of the town, and has not, as yet, been returned to me. I presume 42 marriages are all that have occurred in town this year, although 60 couples have entered their intentions of marriage with me; many included in that number have been married out of town. I have published 38 of those who have been married in town this year. I think many of the difficulties which have arisen in relation to ascertaining the facts required in marriages, will be obviated by the use of the certificate you propose; it appears to me that this ought to be the duty of the town clerks, but no one can afford to do it without pay. The law, I believe, prescribes no pay for returning marriages. I suppose the presumption is, that 50 cents, (the price of a certificate,) will pay for entering, publishing the intention of marriage, ascertaining the facts required by law, recording and returning the same to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. It is a great task for any clerk, and he cannot afford to do it for the money he now receives, if no pay is to be received for these returns; the price of a certificate ought to be one dollar, by law, and then town clerks could afford to take an interest in this matter."

Deaths. "In the return of deaths from the town of Woburn, you will find some omissions." There are "6 omissions of parents names entire, 16 of the names of mothers. These omissions occur mostly in deaths of aged people, where the facts have to be ascertained of the children of the deceased. I find, in such cases, they almost always recollect the names of their grandfathers, but do not know whether they ever had any grandmothers or not. One third of the deaths happening in this town for the past year, are returned to me as having been of consumption. I have put down the names of diseases, &c. as returned to me, unless I was personally acquainted with persons deceased, and then, I have put them down as I knew them. Much praise, I think, is due our sextons of this town, for the zeal they have manifested in carrying out the wishes of the State, and I trust,

that, in the next return that may come from this town, no omissions will occur. I think mistakes may be prevented, in a great degree, by the use of the certificate for the return of deaths, which you have sent to me. I shall endeavor to have them used in all cases."

NO RETURNS, in 1842, from *Bedford, Dunstable, Framingham, and Stow*; in 1843, from *Hopkinton, and Watertown*; in 1844, from *West Cambridge*; and in 1845, from *Littleton and Tewksbury*, of births from *Ashby*, of deaths from *Dra-cut*, and of marriages and deaths from *West Cambridge*.

WORCESTER COUNTY.

ASHBURNHAM.—1842. "Only two or three returns of births or deaths have been made to the town clerk."

AUBURN.—1845. *Births*. "The return of the births is as full as it has been in my power to make it, without going a second time for the information. Where the name of a child is omitted, the parents had not decided upon a name. Where the name of the parents, or the date of the birth, is omitted, it was unknown to my informant. I have taken the trouble to go personally to all these families, but in some cases they were absent, and I had to receive information from others, who were not always able to give it fully."—*Marriages*. "The above is a return of all the marriages that have been solemnized in this town the past year. It is not so perfect as to all the particulars, as the town clerk will be able to make another year with the assistance of the printed blanks sent from your office."—*Deaths*. "The above is a return of all the deaths in this town. It contains all the information I could obtain from the sextons, or the friends of the deceased."

BARRE.—1844. "The town clerk supposes there were about 80 births."—1845. *Births*. "The town clerk is obliged to collect returns of births himself, the school committee refusing to do it."—*Marriages*. "Several marriages have been solemnized in town the past year, and no return thereof made to the town clerk. One clergyman, although frequently requested, has, for three years past, made only one return, and then but one solitary marriage; and it is well known to the town clerk that he has solemnized many in the same time. Some, who are inhabitants of this town, have been out of the State the past year and got married."

BERLIN.—1842. Great remissness in making returns.—1845. "Of the 24 births, 7 were returned me barely within the time prescribed, 14 with numerous omissions in the details, three weeks afterwards, and 3 were not reported at all. The date of solemnization, and the residence of the parties, were the only facts furnished in the clergyman's return of marriages. The sexton, though reminded more than once of the requirements of the law, has made no return. Whether returns to the clerk of births and deaths would be more faithfully made, were the duty transferred to other hands, I do not know; but, to whomsoever entrusted, the necessity of more effectual means of ensuring a performance is shown by the facts above stated. Though a false reliance on the aid and coöperation of others delayed the work till little time was left me to prepare them, I am happy in having effected, in the accompanying returns, an approximation to completeness."

BLACKSTONE.—1845. This was a new town, set off from Mendon and incorporated March, 1845. "But few births have occurred in the town of Blackstone. I have been informed by the town clerk of Mendon, that he returned to you only those which occurred in the town as it now exists. I have, therefore, returned to you all, which occurred in the territory now constituting the town of Blackstone."—*Marriages and Deaths*. "I have received the return of but one marriage, consequently I send you but one. I have not received the return of any death; therefore I have none to return to you."

BOLTON.—1843. "All marriages, that are solemnized in town, are annually handed in and recorded; but, I am sorry to say, little attention has been paid to recording the births and deaths. Of 42 births, only 2 are on record."

DANA.—1842. "No record of births and marriages kept."

DUDLEY.—1845. "The births, marriages and deaths, as returned, may be relied upon as correct. The births were taken by the assessors, when they made their circuit to take their lists for making taxes. The births taken by the assessors is a better and more correct way. It would require a penalty to make the school committee of this town take in the births according to law."

HARDWICK.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 17.

HARVARD.—1844. "The facts were furnished by the assessors."—*Marriages*. "The return is the best I can make from the materials furnished by the clergyman. Most of the particulars I have picked out of the town records. If the secretary will send me some blanks, I will engage the return shall be perfect, should I hold my office another year."

HOLDEN.—1845. *Births*. "There are two births in the return that have no name."—*Marriages*. "This return is very defective. The clergymen forget or neglect to make the proper inquiries, and to make regular returns. Some of the defects are owing to persons coming from other towns who were thought not to belong to this return. I think another year they will be more perfect."

HUBBARDSTON.—1845. *Deaths*. "Daniel Mundell supposed himself to be over 93 years old. His children, (reckoning from their own age,) suppose him to be about 105 years, which accords very well with the belief of all persons who knew him 70 or 80 years ago."

LANCASTER.—1845. *Births*. "These births were gathered from sundry persons. The school committee have not made a single return."

LEICESTER.—1845. *Marriages*. "I have made the returns as they were made to me. They are not altogether perfect."—*Deaths*. "The returns are not so full as I could wish, as the sexton did not understand his duty. Probably will do better another year."

LUNENBURG.—1845. *Births*. "But one returned, the committee thinking the trouble of ascertaining too much for the pay."

MENDON.—1844. "A physician is chairman of the school committee and made the return. We probably have got the number nearly correct."

MILLEBURY.—1843. The clerk perambulated the town to obtain the materials of his return, and states that it would be cheaper to pay the fine of \$10, than make the requisite returns and copies.—1845. *Births*. "The number of births returned in this town is 64. There are 13 that took place, most of them citizens of this town, while absent on visits with their friends. There are a number of births returned without a name."

NORTH BROOKFIELD.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 19.

OXFORD.—1843. "Obtained by actual visit and inquiry by the clerk."—1845. "The returns, I think, are very nearly correct. I procured a man to go over the town for the births, as part of the School Committee refused to comply with the statute. The marriages are returned promptly generally; some few do not have all the necessary facts set forth in the blanks. The deaths were returned promptly."

PHILLIPSTON.—1842. Very imperfect.—1843. Obtained by actual visit and inquiry by the clerk.

ROYALSTON.—1844. "Hereafter I think there will be more attention paid to the law in regard to registration, as soon as the officers and others on whom it imposes the duties of making returns to the clerks become acquainted with what is required of them. The law shall have my aid and attention in carrying out its designs."

RUTLAND.—1845. *Deaths*. "The return embraces every death which has happened in this town, and is believed to be substantially correct."

SHREWSBURY.—1842. Law greatly neglected.—1845. "We have a school committee in each of the 7 school districts, and I regret that I have received returns of births from only 5 of them, which probably embrace about four fifths of the births. This return is, therefore, incomplete. It appears to me that the provisions of the registry act will never be fully carried into effect, until the law imposes a penalty for *neglect of duty* on some others, whose duty is connected with it, as well as upon the town clerk, and persons who solemnize marriage; and why should it not?"

SOUTHBOROUGH.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 18.

STERLING.—1842. "Lamentable neglect."—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 18.—1845. "I shall now make a thorough inquiry concerning the births and deaths the current year myself, being so much dissatisfied with the returns sent."

STURBRIDGE.—1845. *Marriages*. "The record is not so full in regard to some particulars as the statute requires. It may be more so next year."

SUTTON.—1842. "Returns must be incorrect until there are some means of enforcing the law."—1844. "I think this return does not contain all the deaths. I have taken most of them from the newspapers. There are 18 burial grounds in the town, and no overseer to either of them."

TEMPLETON.—1842. No returns of births and deaths for several years.

WESTBOROUGH.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 20.

UPTON.—1844. "This blank is filled from memoranda kept by a person for his curiosity. There has not been a death given to me to record."—1845. "There have not been any returns of marriages or births made by the ministers, justices of the peace, or the school committees. Of course, I could not fill the blanks."

WARREN.—1845. *Births*.—"It is impossible to get the exact particulars of 3 or 4, as they are off at a distance."—*Marriages*. "It has been very inconvenient to obtain the required information respecting marriages, until I received those blanks from your office. I now fill them out at the time of giving the certificate."

WESTMINSTER.—1845. "For one, and in behalf of others, I would earnestly request your Honor to recommend to the next General Court, to increase the

town clerk's fees, or reduce their duties. You have stated, in your circular, that 'the chief practical inconvenience experienced in the operation of the law is believed to have been in relation to certain particulars required in the returns of clergymen and others solemnizing marriages;' then you go on and suggest that it is in the power of town clerks to obviate this difficulty. How is it to be done? By taking the burden from the men that have large pay, and placing it on poor town clerks that have but small pay? Now, in all good conscience, is that right? I judge from experience, for I have had the satisfaction of serving as town clerk for over thirty years, and I have had the honor of uniting a number in marriage, and I say, give me the duty and fees of the clergyman rather than those of a town clerk."

WINCHENDON.—1844. "The school committee have not made returns of the number of births."

No RETURNS, in 1842, from *Dudley and Spencer*; in 1843, from *Brookfield*; in 1844, of births and deaths from *Winchendon*; and in 1845, from *Douglas*; of births from *Worcester*, of births and marriages from *Upton*, of births and deaths from *Westborough*, and of deaths from *Blackstone and Winchendon*.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

AMHERST.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 21.

BELCHERTOWN.—1842. "No record hitherto kept; have made a beginning."
—1845. "The school committee refused to make the returns according to law; and I regret that I am unable to make them complete and full."

CUMMINGTON.—1842. "Very imperfect; great neglect."—1845. "The return is probably nearer complete than last year, although it may be deficient in some particulars. I have endeavored to have the returns made to me comply, as nearly as possible, with the law, but in many respects they fall short, and much of the information in regard to deaths and births I have collected myself."

EASTHAMPTON.—1843. "No record has ever been kept." See Second Annual Report, p. 22.—1845. "There have been but three marriages in this town this year. I have returned two; the other one has not been returned to me. It is made the duty of the sexton to return the deaths to the clerk. We have no such officer in this town, but my returns are probably as correct as if we had."

ENFIELD.—1844. "The returns of births very imperfect."

GOSHEN.—1845. "I send a very imperfect return of marriages. I have thus far depended upon those who solemnize marriages to furnish the necessary information, which they have neglected, and my returns will be unsatisfactory to you; but I think, by making the necessary inquiries at the time of publishing, I shall hereafter be able to send you a more perfect return."

GRANBY.—1842. See First Annual Report, p. 7.—1845. *Births*. "The record of the *marriages* I have no doubt is correct; and so also, I believe, is the record of the *deaths*, with perhaps the exception of the disease, or cause of death, in some cases, for on that subject I have had to depend usually on common report. Physicians are not bound to make report, neither are sextons; but we have no sexton in Granby. There may also be some inaccuracies as to ages in some

cases, for where the person was born elsewhere, there is, of course, no record to report. As to the *births*, I am very confident I have not got them all. Our school committee declined having any thing to do with the business, thinking, perhaps, that it was not one of their appropriate duties. I have had some two or three births reported to me by the parents, and some two or three more in my immediate neighborhood I have obtained by neighborhood inquiries; but for the rest, I have obtained them from the physicians by special inquiries made of them, and they may be correct, or they may not be correct, for they reported in part from their memory, and in part from their books. The law on this subject, as it now stands, is not what it ought to be; it will not accomplish the object, for full and accurate returns, under its provisions, will never be obtained. The old law, making it penal on parents, housekeepers, &c. who shall not enter for record, at the town clerk's office, the births and deaths in their families as they shall occur, has become obsolete, if it ever was enforced; it is now a mere dead letter. But I believe that, were that law re-enacted, with a condition that all who complied with its provisions within a given length of time, say thirty or sixty days, or even before the expiration of the year, should receive a compensation for so doing, not less than that now proffered to school committees, while those who neglected it should suffer the penalty for their neglect, and making it penal on town clerks who should not prosecute for and collect the penalties, it would be useful. But the law should be printed and distributed, and posted up in every place of public resort in the Commonwealth, so that every person might see it and have a knowledge of its provisions. Such a law, I think, would prove efficient, and accomplish its object. The general practice under the old law, so far as I know, or can learn, was for families to have each a *family record* on the books of the town where they lived, where were recorded all the births and deaths of that family as they occurred. For this service, the town clerk received from the town a compensation of eight cents for each record so made, and here ended all his duties on that subject. But under the present law, many new duties are required of him; many additional facts, never before matters of record, are by him to be looked up and ascertained, and, when ascertained, entries are to be made of them. And the records must now all be made and kept in quite a different form from what they formerly were; and still the old-fashioned family records will probably have to be kept up, as a matter of special convenience, as well to towns as to families. And, lastly, under the present law, attested copies of the whole record of births, marriages and deaths in the town, for the year, are by the town clerk annually to be made out and transmitted to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, under a penalty of ten dollars. Under the old law, a fair compensation, and nothing more, was made to town clerks for their services; but under the present law, while their services are more than tripled, no addition whatever is made to their compensation; and even more, a penalty of ten dollars is inflicted if they neglect or decline doing this additional work for nothing.

"It has occurred to me since I began writing this note, that very few members of the legislature who enacted this law, (a peculiar feature of which is the imposition of a fine for the non-performance of certain extra duties, for which, if performed, no compensation whatever is to be made,) were ever *town clerks*, or ever intended to be."

NORWICH.—1845. "The number of births is nearly correct, but the return is not as full as I trust it will hereafter be. The number of *marriages* and *deaths* I think are correct."

PELHAM.—1845. "There has been one other marriage in this town, as I am informed, but the minister, who lives in Amherst, has not made his return to me. The certificate of publishment was given before the last suggestion of yours for the clerk to make the entries of ages, &c. In this return, the place of marriage is required, but as the register has not that on record, I have not been able to inform you of all. In regard to *Deaths*, we have no sexton in this town, and there has been no return to me nor to my predecessor, as appears from the register."

PLAINFIELD.—1845. *Births*. "Only two births have been reported to the town clerk, since the 1st of March, 1844, and neither of these by the school committee, or by their direction, although 20 or 25 have taken place since any report has been made to the town clerk."

SOUTH HADLEY.—1845. *Births*. "The return made by the school committee, and believed to be full and correct, with the exception of one born in a family that has left town, which will make the whole number 45."—*Marriages*. "In addition to the above, I believe there was one marriage solemnized by a methodist clergyman, which has not been returned."—*Deaths*. "No deaths have been returned to the clerk, but such were recorded as accidentally came to his knowledge. But one death from the third parish, with about one third of the population, is here returned."

SOUTHAMPTON.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 22.

WARE.—1843. "No record of births and deaths is kept."—1845. *Deaths*. "I cannot fill this blank, if I attempted it, as returns have not been made to me. I think the number will not vary 3 from 35."

WESTHAMPTON.—1845. "Not a single instance of a birth or death has been returned to me during the year. The facts have been ascertained wholly by my own inquiries."

WORTHINGTON.—1842 and 1843. "No record is kept of births or deaths."

No RETURNS, in 1842, from *Norwich* and *Ware*; in 1843, from *Hadley*; in 1844, from *Plainfield* and *Prescott*, and of births from *Belchertown*; and in 1845 from *Prescott*, and births from *Chesterfield*.

HAMPDEN COUNTY.

BLANDFORD.—1845. "It is out of my power to ascertain and make correct returns, of either births, marriages, or deaths, but you have them according to the best information I can get."

GRANVILLE.—1845. "I have tried to get a correct record of deaths, but can persuade no one to make returns. There is no sexton in town, and no particular one to take charge of burials. There are 7 or 8 burying-yards. The people live scattered, and I do not hear of half the deaths that take place."

LUDLOW.—1845. "The date of the registry is all the same. There has been a culpable negligence, on the part of those whose duty it is by law to make the returns. There have been but two returns of marriages made according to law, and those by Charles Alden, Esq.; the rest of the returns I have been obliged to get

as I could, which has compelled me to delay sending the returns to this late hour. It has been the same with the other returns of births and deaths. Shall the law be strictly enforced, and by whom?"

MONSON.—1845. "The above return is not complete. Many of the sextons are not willing to keep a record and make the return as required. It seems, from the law, that there is no penalty if they do not discharge their duty in this respect, and they so understand it."

PALMER.—1842. "No record of deaths by clerk or physician."

SOUTHWICK.—1843. "No record is kept of births or deaths."—1845. *Marriages*. "The age and name of the parents were not returned, but I have ascertained, as far as possible, and put them down."

SPRINGFIELD.—1843. See Second Annual Report, pp. 8 and 23.—1845. "The return of births and deaths, I believe to be nearly correct; and that of marriages far from it. I return all to you, just as they were returned to me. Some of our clergy, and justices of the peace, do not make any return of those they marry, therefore I cannot make, as I wish, a full and correct return to you."

TOLLAND.—1845. *Marriages*. "One of our justices of the peace has solemnized one marriage; and I have frequently requested him to make returns to me, but he has neglected to do it. The law is not properly understood in regard to returns, and I have been to a good deal of trouble to make them understood as they are, but they are not as they ought to be."—*Deaths*. "We have no sexton in town, and it devolves on the clerk to ascertain for himself. My predecessor did not keep a record of deaths, and threw it on me. I have had but a short time to ascertain all the particulars required by law, but will endeavor to be more correct for the future."

WESTFIELD.—1842. "No record of births or deaths for several years."

WEST SPRINGFIELD.—1845. "The Reverend Gentlemen do not make their returns as they should do."

NO RETURNS, in 1842, from *Granville, Southwick and Tolland*; in 1843, from *Palmer*; in 1844, from *Southwick*, and of births from *Brimfield*; and in 1845, from *Russell*, of births from *Holland*, of deaths from *Palmer*, and of marriages from *Chester*.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

ASHFIELD.—1843. "No attention is paid to making returns of births or deaths, to the town clerk."

BERNARDSTON.—1843. "No attention is given to making returns. Town clerks should be paid for making returns."—1845. *Births*. "The return was prepared by Dr. E. W. Carpenter of this town, and is, I believe, *very accurate*. He took great pains to make it so, and exhibited a very praise-worthy desire to aid me in making my return *full and complete*. If every town would be as *thorough*, we should, in a few years, have a very valuable body of statistical information."—*Marriages*. "The return I believe to be perfectly accurate. Our clergymen have exhibited a laudable desire to comply with the law in every particular."—*Deaths*. "The return I believe to be *perfectly accurate* except in one case, where the months and days of a person's age could not be obtained."

BUCKLAND.—1843. "No record has been kept."—1845. "The above are all the returns made, which are probably not one-half the deaths, that have occurred during the year. They are imperfect, and not made according to law, although often spoken to on the subject. I do not offer this as a return, but to show how near our sextons approach the requirements of the law."

CHARLEMONT.—1843. *Marriages*. "Many marriages are solemnized in Vermont."—1845. "Some of our inhabitants have been married out of town during the year, so that no certificates were returned to me. In those cases, I have made no record or return. The returns are as complete and perfect as I could make them."

COLERAINE.—1843. "No record of births and deaths, has been kept."—1845. "In consequence of the returns being made at so late a date, I am unable to make the remarks I intended. I believe they are made correctly, as far as respects the number of births, deaths, and marriages, from the 20th of Aug. 1844. I find no record made by my predecessor in office, of any marriage from the 1st of May, to the 28th of August, 1844; hence it is impossible for me to make a return of the marriages in that time. So far as it has come to my knowledge, those who solemnize marriage, have been very punctual in making returns. I think there will hereafter be no difficulty in making proper and correct returns."

CONWAY.—1843. One clergyman only has made a return of marriages. But little attention has been given to the subject by parents.

DEERFIELD.—1842. Nothing on town record.—1843. "No return of deaths to the town clerk."

ERVING.—1843. "Great neglect through the town. No return of marriages or deaths, and only one birth."—1844. "The attention of the minister has been twice called to the subject by the town clerk, but he still neglects to make any return of marriages."—1845. *Births*. "The return was made by School Committee."—*Marriages*. "The return embraces all the marriages in the town the past year, I have given them as they were returned to me."—*Deaths*. "The return was made by the sexton, and I think includes all the deaths. I will send for some blanks, and endeavor to have the returns more perfect hereafter."

GILL.—1845. "Wishing that the Registry Laws might be carried into practical operation, and become as perfect as may be, I would most respectfully suggest that some alteration is expedient. If I understand the law, the sextons are directed to make the return of deaths to the Town Clerks, and that where no sextons exist, there is no remedy. In the town of Gill, and in many other towns, there are no sextons, and consequently if the Clerks did not, at their own voluntary expense, procure all the information requisite for carrying the law into effect, it would not be done. I have employed the School Committee at my own expense, this and last year, to procure correct returns of deaths, when they returned the births. I do hope, that our Legislature will either empower School Committees to take and make returns of deaths, at the same time they make returns of births, or that the Assessors may be empowered to make the return of births and deaths, which I think, the best method yet suggested. In case these propositions should be rejected, I would suggest that Town Clerks be empowered to get the necessary information at the expense of the town."

GREENFIELD.—1845. *Births*. “No return made by School Committee. The above are the only returns received by me, and these were received from Dr. E. W. Carpenter, a physician living in the adjoining town of Bernardston.”—*Marriages*. “The number of marriages has been about 12; the majority go out of the State to be married.”—*Deaths*. “No return has been made of deaths; the number is supposed to be about 21.”

HEATH.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 23.—1845. “There has been no return of marriages during the past year.”

MONTAGUE.—1843. “The law is disregarded.”—1845. “There appears to be a great indifference about collecting and returning the information on the subjects required. I hope that another year will afford an understanding, that will induce more attention, and that the fruits may be better.”

NORTHFIELD.—1843. “Great remissness in making returns.”—1845. “There has been no returns of births or deaths, the past year.”

ORANGE.—1845. “The deaths were not returned until I had made out my return. The return is not what it ought to be, but I think the sextons will understand their duty and comply in future.”

ROWE.—1845. *Marriages*. “To account for the small number of marriages, I can only refer you to the Registry Law of 1844, and to the map of the Commonwealth.”

SHELburnE.—1842. Time for returns should be altered.—1843. “Until the law is altered, and then enforced by adequate penalties, the returns cannot be relied upon.”

SUNDERLAND.—1845. *Deaths*. “The above are all that have been returned to me, but more deaths have occurred in town.”

WARWICK.—1845. *Deaths*. “The months and days are not generally returned.”

WENDELL.—1843. The clerk complains of great neglect of the law, and says that the remedy is for the Legislature “to cause the fines to be collected.”

No RETURNS, in 1842, from *Coleraine, Heath and Northfield*; in 1843, from *Greenfield*; in 1844, from *Deerfield*; and in 1845, from *Conway*, of births from *Montague*, of marriages from *Heath and Monroe*, of births and deaths from *Northfield*, and of deaths from *Greenfield*.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY.

ADAMS.—1845. *Births*. “I believe our return of births is quite full.”—*Marriages*. “You will perceive that the return of marriages is very few, compared with the births and deaths. The reason for this is, that we are situated almost on the borders of the States of New York and Vermont, and the largest proportion go out of the State, as is very much the custom. We cannot, therefore, get more than one fourth part of the marriages of the inhabitants of the town of Adams.”—*Deaths*. “I believe the return of deaths is very nearly correct, as far as could be ascertained.”

BECKET.—1845. *Deaths*. "The return comprises all the deaths that have occurred. It is not as full as I could wish, owing to the neglect of the sextons, whose duty it is to furnish the necessary information. I have, however, added all the statistics I was able to obtain from other sources."

CLARKSBURGH.—1842. "No birth, death, or marriage on record."—1845. "No deaths returned to my office. No marriages in our town; they all go to Vermont."

DALTON.—1842. "No return of births or deaths."

EGREMONT.—1842. "No returns; shall comply hereafter."—1845. *Marriages*. "The above are all the marriages I consider returnable according to the requisition of the law, although others have occurred among our citizens."

FLORIDA.—1845. "The School Committee have made no return. I have recorded when the parents have made application. It is believed the whole number is nearly correct."—*Marriages*. "Certificates of the above were returned, simply stating that they had joined such persons in marriage, at such a time. I have filled the blank as far as I could, from a personal knowledge of the parties."

GREAT BARRINGTON.—1845. *Marriages*. "Probably more, but I can get no returns as yet."

LEE.—1845. *Marriages*. "I find, from the record of publishments, that there were 14 during the year, a part of whom went to the state of New York to be married, and a part to other towns in this state, where one of the parties reside."

LENOX.—1842. "No return of births or deaths made."

NEW MARLBORO'.—1845. *Births*. "There has been but a partial return of births."—*Marriages*. "Return not yet full."

PERU.—1844. *Births*. Good return, signed by School Committee and town clerk.

SANDISFIELD.—1845. "I send you the returns with as much particularity as I am able to do, under all the circumstances in which I find myself placed. There is not, and never has been, (judging from the records,) any regularity or punctuality on the part of those whose duty it is, and has been, to make returns of births, marriages, deaths, &c., to the clerk's office in this place. No return of births made from any source, for the year preceding May 1st, 1845, to this date. The intention of the several legislative bodies which have passed upon this matter, can never be fully carried out, nor the expectations of the country realized, until more efficient measures are put forth and duly executed. It strikes me, that it should be made, by enactment, the special duty of some one of the town officers in each town, to see that the present law, (and other laws enacted, if necessary,) be punctually obeyed in this respect, and that a sufficient penalty be attached, to make said officer discharge his duties in the premises."

SAVOY.—1845. *Births*. "As the law is, it devolves on the School Committee to make the returns to the town clerk. They say they will not do it; so I got a few births, but presume not half that have occurred."—*Marriages*. "Some more marriages have taken place in this town, but have not been returned to me. As there is no one to put the law in force, it is impossible to make return of all the marriages. Some methodist ministers make no returns at all to me."—*Deaths*. "Some more deaths have occurred in town. People pay but little attention to the law."

WEST STOCKBRIDGE.—1845. "The returns are not perfect, but as nearly so as is possible, unless the town clerk will take upon himself to discharge all the duties in this behalf, by law, imposed upon clergymen, justices, parents, householders, &c."

WILLIAMSTOWN.—1845. *Deaths*. "The above are all the deaths that have taken place in this town during the specified time, as far as my knowledge extends. It is not as perfect as could be wished. The sextons have not been as prompt as they ought; and when I took the town books, in March last, I found no record of deaths, during the time specified; hence it has been with much difficulty, that I have obtained the above. I have seen the sextons, and endeavored to point out their duty."

NO RETURNS, in 1842, from *Adams, Cheshire, Hancock, Sheffield, West Stockbridge, and Windsor*; in 1843, from *Adams, Cheshire, Stockbridge, and Windsor*; in 1844, from *Adams, Boston Corner, Cheshire, and Windsor*; and in 1845, from *Boston Corner, Cheshire, Mount Washington, and Tyringham*, of births, from *Sandisfield*, of marriages, from *Dalton and Hancock*, of births and deaths from *Great Barrington*, and of marriages and deaths from *Clarksburg*.

NORFOLK COUNTY.

CANTON.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 27.—1845. *Deaths*. "The return is believed to be correct, as the sexton has been regular in making his reports."

MEDWAY.—1842. "Only 2 deaths and 2 births returned for 2 years."

MILTON.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 29.

STOUGHTON.—1845. *Births*. "The return of births was certified by the School Committee, and is believed to be correct."—*Deaths*. "No returns made by the sextons. There may be a very few not obtained by me, but it is believed to be nearly correct."

WEYMOUTH.—1845. "The return of marriages is not quite complete, as I have reason to believe that there has been some marriages solemnized by one or two individuals, who have either died or removed from the place, without making any return. The returns that have been made, fail in some of the required particulars. I have obtained those that I was able to ascertain. The return of births I believe to be full and complete. The return of deaths is also probably complete in the number of the deaths, but not in some other particulars. The sextons in town, some of them wholly, and others partially, failed in making the required returns, alleging that the compensation was very inadequate to the labor necessary. I was, in consequence, obliged to procure other means of information, which I obtained principally from the School Committee, who readily undertook to supply the failure of the sextons. It seems that it might be preferable to make it the duty of the assessors to collect the deaths, as they are now obliged to the militia, both of which might be obtained at one time. I trust that in future the returns may be more complete, as people become acquainted with the law, and its objects."

WRENTHAM. See Second Annual Report, p. 29.—1845. "The returns are as

perfect as the circumstances will admit, but not so perfect as we hope to be able to make in future. We have eight cemeteries in town."

No RETURNS, in 1842, from *Canton, Milton, Randolph, and Walpole*; in 1844, from *Walpole*; and in 1845, from *Walpole*, and of deaths from *Roxbury*.

BRISTOL COUNTY.

ATTLEBOROUGH.—1843. "Great inattention in making returns of births and deaths."

BERKLEY.—1845. *Marriages*. "Having no settled minister, during the past year, the marriages have been mostly solemnized by the clergymen of the adjoining towns. This makes our return so small."

DARTMOUTH.—1842. "No births or deaths recorded for a number of years."

FAIRHAVEN.—1843. "The returns are not made to the town clerk in season for his return to the Secretary."—1845. "The number of births has (I believe) been correctly returned, as one member of the School Committee took the whole burden upon himself, and performed his duty faithfully, and it is to be regretted that the law did not, at the same time, require him to ascertain the number of deaths that have occurred in the town the past year; for, as the law now stands, (so far as it relates to deaths,) it cannot be complied with without subjecting the sextons of burying grounds to inconveniencies for which they do not receive an adequate compensation. I have received returns of deaths from five sextons, and, with one exception, the year had closed before they made them, and you will perceive, by the returns, that they were all recorded at four different times only. Two of them sent very imperfect returns, but, where it has been practicable, I have obtained the information which they omitted. One of them sent in five that occurred in New Bedford. I recorded them, and copied them on the returns now made to you before I was aware of the fact; but you will perceive that they are not numbered in the left hand column, nor included in the number at the top of the returns. They often have to attend funerals two or three miles from their places of residence, and, generally, do not get there until the services have commenced. Consequently, they have no opportunity of getting any information from the friends of the deceased, unless they visit them expressly for that purpose. And, as there is no penalty for refusing, and the amount allowed them for their trouble is so small, the prospect seems to be that they will neglect making perfect returns unless they take an interest in it, which will lead them to make exertions without the fear of penalties, or the hope of rewards. There are also yards in other towns, near the line of this town, which some of the citizens of this town use, and from the sextons of those yards no returns have been received, although there have been some of the inhabitants of the town buried in them the past year. Two inhabitants of the town have died at sea, whose deaths are not included in the returns. As regards marriages, I think there may possibly have been four or five solemnized, of which no returns have been made to the town clerk. Persons performing that duty have seemed very unwilling to obey the law strictly, as you will see by the returns. Some of them made none until the

close of the year, and others have felt delicate about asking the questions which they are required to. But the last named objection is now removed, as the required information is added to the certificate given to the parties to be married."

FALL RIVER.—1842. See First Annual Report, p. 58.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 24.—1845. *Births*. "There were 4 births reported as having occurred in other towns in the State not included in the above. The family now live here, and probably will not be returned. The population of Fall River, in May, 1845, was 10,153. In 1844, it was 9,054. Increase in 1 year, 1,099. Polls, 2,724. Children between 4 and 16 years, 2,724. Enrolled in militia, 1649. Taxes voted in 1844, \$24,000; in 1845, \$38,500."—*Marriages*. "The imperfections in the foregoing return are chargeable to the persons solemnizing marriages. Circulars containing the law, and also a 'form' have been issued by the town clerk to all the stated clergymen in town. I am satisfied, in my own mind, that this return does not comprise one half of the marriages which have been solemnized during the year ending 1st of May, from the fact that there were 166 publications during that period."—*Deaths*. "From a glance at the foregoing return, it will be perceived that one sexton has been culpably negligent in the discharge of his duty. One half of these deaths have come to the knowledge of the clerk through other sources than that of the sexton. Due diligence has been observed in giving all necessary instructions to the sexton touching the law, including forms, but to little or no purpose. He promises, however, to do better in future, if provided with the blanks, of which the Secretary of State has furnished a specimen."

MANSFIELD.—1843. "No births or deaths returned to town clerk."—1845. *Deaths*. "I cannot get a perfect return from the sextons. I did my best with them, but this return is very imperfect. The number of deaths last year, from the best information I can obtain, was 23."

NEW BEDFORD.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 26.—1845. "These returns are not as complete, in all respects, as I could have wished them to be; I have, however, endeavored to make them as much so as possible, all things considered. The number of *Births*, I believe, are correctly given; but this cannot be said of either the marriages or deaths. While many of our clergymen here have made their monthly returns promptly, and, I believe, correctly, and have manifested a disposition and a willingness to render every aid in their power in this matter, others have either wholly or partially disregarded the law requiring such returns. The number of *Marriages* returned you will perceive to be 114, which is undoubtedly far short of the actual number. The number who entered at this office their intentions of marriage, during the past year, was 187. Now supposing the number of those who were published in this town and married in another to be equal to those who were published in some other town, and married in this, and supposing also that one tenth of the whole number published remain unmarried, we should have 169 as the actual number of marriages during the year, which is most probably very near the truth. The number of *Deaths* returned will vary much less, I think, from the actual number, than that of the marriages. All the sextons of the regularly established cemeteries and burying places have made their returns regularly, with a single exception; and this individual has pledged himself that, for the future, he will comply with the law.

There are, however, undoubtedly many interments which are made in family burying-places, of which no returns are made to this office. In conclusion, I would simply add that my best endeavors will be used to carry out the designs of the Legislature, in establishing the law requiring the aforesaid returns."

NORTON.—1845. "In Norton, there are about 20 burying grounds, mostly family burying grounds, and no sexton chosen to take charge of them. But two deaths have been sent to me to be recorded since I made my last return. Those I have recorded have come within my knowledge otherwise. The law should be amended so that the School Committee, when they collect the births, should collect the deaths also."

PAWTUCKET.—1842. "Physicians from R. I. practise here."—1843. "No births or deaths returned to town clerk."

RAYNHAM.—1845. "The return contains all the marriages sent to me. It is imperfect, owing to deficiency in returns."

SEEKONK.—1842. "The clerk has exerted himself unsuccessfully."—1843. "The deaths estimated at 40, births at 60. Couples published, 28."

WESTPORT.—1845. "I find, by the town records, that there have been 17 publishments posted by the former town clerk the past year, but through the neglect of the clerk, and those persons who solemnized the marriages, they have not been recorded according to law. But since I was chosen, you have it as above recorded."

No RETURNS, in 1842, from *Freetown, New Bedford, and Somerset*; in 1843, from *Freetown and Westport*; and, in 1845, of marriages from *Rehoboth*; and of deaths from *Dartmouth and Pawtucket*.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

DUXBURY.—1845. "There has not been any return of births to me the past year."

EAST BRIDGEWATER.—1845. *Deaths*. "The above are the deaths of which I have knowledge. It may be presumed, there have been some in remote parts of the town, that were interred out of town, of which our sextons were not informed."

HALIFAX.—1845. *Deaths*. "Some of the ages I have not been able to obtain; likewise the name of the parents, &c. As there has been no superintendant of burying grounds, I have had to procure them the best way I could."

HINGHAM.—1845. "The return of births and deaths, I believe to be full and complete; but the return of marriages is not. I know that there have more marriages taken place than are returned. These are much more complete than when I received them, as I have taken great pains to collect what information I could in relation to them. I have delayed the return in hopes that further returns would be made from persons who solemnize marriages."

MARSHFIELD.—1843. "Dr. ——— of Hanover has attended on persons in this town, but refuses to report the names of the disease of which they died."—1845. *Marriages*. "The above is not as perfect a return as I desired, but it is full as to the number married."—*Births*. "The return is complete and perfect I believe, excepting four parents have not as yet given names to their children. By direction

of the school committee, I obtained the facts from actual inquiry. I am indebted largely to Dr. Blanchard, who keeps a record of all the facts required by law of the cases he attends."—*Deaths*. "We have no sextons. The return was obtained, by actual inquiry by myself, and contains all the deaths that have occurred."

NORTH BRIDGEWATER.—1843. "A true return so far as I have been able to obtain the information."

PLYMOUTH.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 31.—1845. "The returns of deaths the last six months are without date, they occurred at 'Manomet Pond.' I shall obtain the dates and enter them in my books."

PLYMPTON. In this town the record has been kept with great care, by Lewis Bradford, town clerk, who has been elected annually since 1812. That officer himself collects the facts for his returns, with a fidelity worthy of all praise.—1842. See First Annual Report, p. 56.—1845. *Births*. "The dates in the column, headed 'when registered,' were made in a minute-book at the time the town clerk, as one of the school committee, called on the parents to take account of the births of their children, &c., and afterwards entered on the records. There was no illegitimate birth, nor any birth of a colored person."—*Deaths*. "The town clerk of Plympton took a full account of the deaths and funerals in Plympton in a private journal he kept for that purpose, and near the time they occurred and at times afterwards entered the deaths in the town records. That journal contains many particulars which are not registered in this record. The following is taken from one of the statistical tables kept in the town records of Plympton, by the present town clerk, showing the number of deaths in each month during 33 years, from Jan. 1, 1812 to Jan. 1, 1845:—

In January, 46.	In April, 39.	In July, 29.	In October, 50.
February, 35.	May, 48.	Aug., 42.	November, 31.
March, 56.	June, 32.	Sept., 49.	December, 37.
Total, - - 494.			

During the 33 years, every birth, marriage, and death in Plympton, has been recorded in the town records. The population of Plympton in 1840, according to the U. S. census, was 835; according to the State census of that year 861; The births during the 33 years have been 761; males 409, females 352; excess of males 57. During the same time, the deaths have been 494; males 242, females 252; excess of males 10. More males than females move from Plympton. The ages of the 242 males averaged 40 years, 6 months, and 7 days. Of the 252 females 41 years, 6 months, and 16 days. Of the 494 of both sexes, 41 years and 15 days."

ROCHESTER.—1842. No returns, but thinks they may be complete next year.

WEST BRIDGEWATER.—1843. See Second Annual Report, p. 30.—1845. "As I have been under the necessity of visiting every section of this town myself, to obtain the information for my record, the enclosed returns are believed to be perfect. I have not had a return of a single birth or death made me, for the year past. The clergy too, have generally been equally remiss in their duty. The most of them, who have pretended to make any sort of returns, have barely given the names of the parties, the date and place of marriage, and their own names. The age, condition, occupation, place of residence, and the names of the parents, have

been left for me to ascertain elsewhere. I think if the whole duty were to devolve on the town and city clerks, we should have a more perfect registration throughout the State. The truth is, there are too many charged with the business."

No RETURNS, in 1842, from *Bridgewater*, and *Plymouth*; in 1843, from *Hanson*; in 1844, from *Hanson*, *Middleborough*, and *Rochester*; and in 1845, from *Hanson*, and *Middleborough*, of births from *Duxbury*, and of births and deaths from *Abington*. *Rochester*, received too late for the abstract.

BARNSTABLE COUNTY.

BARNSTABLE.—1845. "In relation to the return of marriages, I would say that there seems to be, on the part of many clergymen in town, a very great unwillingness to comply fully with the requirements of the law; they consider that it imposes a burthen upon them which will benefit no one. The return of births is very incomplete, it being of only such as I have learned from personal inquiry, the school committee having made no return. The return of deaths composes only such as I have from actual inquiry learned; there have probably others occurred in the town within the last year."

CHATHAM.—1845. *Births*. "There has been no returns of births made to me during the year from any source."—*Deaths*. "There are no sextons in this place, consequently I have obtained the information from different individuals, generally from those that were connected with the deceased; it is probably correct."

DENNIS.—1843. "It is customary for the town clerk to go through the town and collect the information himself."

EASTHAM.—1843. "The registration laws are so vague and loose that our citizens have been in the habit of disobeying them altogether. I have applied personally for the information this year, expecting our next legislature will alter and amend the laws." 1845.—"The record of deaths is correct, as I obtained the information from personal inquiry, but the record of births is not full as regards particulars, having had no returns from the school committee. The marriages solemnized by Rev. H. H. Smith, are, I presume, correct, but the few others were solemnized by clergymen out of town."

HARWICH.—1845. *Marriages*. "Five persons have solemnized marriages in Harwich last year, though but one of them has made the return as prescribed by law. I have, however, ascertained the ages, names of parents, &c. which I believe is, with few exceptions, correct."—*Deaths*. "The return is as nearly correct as possible, yet there may be a few omitted, though I have gone through the town to ascertain every one, if possible."

WELLFLEET.—1843. "Physicians should be compelled to make returns of deaths, and causes of death."

No RETURNS, in 1842 received from *Barnstable* and *Brewster*; in 1843, from *Truro*; and in 1845, from *Dennis*.

DUKES COUNTY.

EDGARTOWN.—1845. "I have procured every item of information, with the exception of two or three relating to marriages. Clergymen are not particular in their returns to me; frequently handing in the certificate which I gave of the publishment of the couple, without the date of the marriage, age of the parties, residence of parents or even their own signature; and this has been the case after I have read the law respecting their duty, to them. In the case of deaths, our sexton has not made return of a solitary item during the year, laying the whole burthen upon myself, all of which I have endeavored to perform; but have not been able to make my returns to you, so complete as I could have wished."

NANTUCKET COUNTY.

NANTUCKET.—1843. "The return I believe to be a correct list, as near as I can collect them, from physicians and sextons."

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TABLE I. 1. ABSTRACT OF THE RETURNS OF THE BIRTHS,
in the several Counties, for each month of the year ending April 30, 1845.

MONTH.	Sex.	COUNTIES.													TOTAL.
		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Franklin.	Berkshire.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Nantucket.	Dukes.	
May, .	Male, .	83	81	68	23	25	19	33	52	61	30	20	4	2	504
	Female, .	92	70	68	15	25	25	22	61	69	26	21	3	2	499
	Not stated, .	.	2	2	1	1	.	1	2	.	1	.	.	.	10
June, .	Male, .	82	94	55	26	26	24	36	62	69	28	24	7	6	539
	Female, .	66	106	63	15	36	20	33	46	68	28	27	6	4	518
	Not stated, .	.	1	3	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
July, .	Male, .	73	120	98	33	32	20	42	61	67	34	22	8	5	615
	Female, .	94	103	108	28	35	21	36	56	63	25	32	13	5	619
	Not stated, .	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
August, .	Male, .	90	136	99	28	47	19	36	62	77	41	31	11	7	684
	Female, .	99	126	104	35	41	20	26	67	71	26	31	5	7	658
	Not stated, .	1	1	4	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
September, .	Male, .	86	125	120	28	37	29	28	71	62	27	35	10	5	663
	Female, .	91	145	79	30	34	20	32	60	66	35	33	10	6	641
	Not stated, .	1	2	1	2	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
October, .	Male, .	105	136	81	31	28	21	40	63	81	34	32	7	10	669
	Female, .	92	138	77	17	31	33	40	66	84	43	20	9	1	651
	Not stated, .	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
November, .	Male, .	91	127	79	21	41	19	39	64	77	29	19	4	9	619
	Female, .	84	117	90	22	34	15	34	62	70	35	29	5	5	602
	Not stated, .	.	5	3	1	2	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	14
December, .	Male, .	92	115	81	25	32	23	25	60	75	33	30	9	8	608
	Female, .	59	126	79	25	42	18	34	76	72	40	28	10	1	610
	Not stated, .	7	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	20
January, .	Male, .	89	134	90	30	37	24	34	76	88	36	25	15	8	686
	Female, .	84	135	84	27	36	16	28	57	97	29	31	12	7	643
	Not stated, .	1	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	6
February, .	Male, .	82	130	82	22	48	17	24	77	76	33	33	11	4	642
	Female, .	86	138	85	33	36	17	44	51	79	42	18	8	4	641
	Not stated, .	3	.	3	2	1	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	12
March, .	Male, .	103	166	113	21	44	18	39	69	94	27	36	14	9	753
	Female, .	99	155	100	35	47	25	30	77	86	36	29	15	1	735
	Not stated, .	1	3	3	1	6	1	.	2	1	2	4	.	.	24
April, .	Male, .	114	153	84	22	36	33	35	82	84	44	31	15	6	739
	Female, .	109	130	86	35	36	22	41	56	86	35	26	16	5	683
	Not stated, .	8	2	9	2	3	.	1	.	1	1	3	.	.	30
Total, .	Male, .	1090	1517	1050	310	433	266	411	799	914	399	338	115	79	7721
	Female, .	1055	1489	1023	317	433	252	400	735	911	400	325	112	48	7500
	Not stated, .	24	20	32	13	15	8	9	6	2	6	10	.	.	145
Month not stated, .	Male, .	1	5	4	5	27	.	.	18	10	1	1	.	.	72
	Female, .	5	11	7	3	27	.	1	26	14	.	.	.	.	94
	Not stated, .	.	8	.	5	2	2	1	7	1	5	1	.	.	32
Grand total, .	.	2175	3050	2116	653	937	522	822	1591	1852	811	675	227	127	15,564

TABLE I. 2. BIRTHS ; PLURALITY CASES.

MONTH.	Sex.	COUNTIES.												TOTAL.	
		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Franklin.	Berkshire.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Dukes.		Nantucket.
May,	Male,	2	2	.	.	.	2	2	2	.	1	.	.	.	11
	Female,	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	5
	Not stated,	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
June,	Male,	.	.	2	1	.	1	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Female,	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
July,	Male,	2	1	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	11
	Female,	.	1	4	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	9
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
August,	Male,	.	1	3	3	.	.	2	1	2	.	7*	.	.	19
	Female,	.	3	1	1	.	2	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	10
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
September,	Male,	2	6	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	12
	Female,	.	8	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	12
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
October,	Male,	.	.	2	2	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
	Female,	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
November,	Male,	2	.	1	.	.	.	2	1	4	.	1	.	.	11
	Female,	6	.	1	.	2	.	2	1	2	.	1	.	.	15
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
December,	Male,	.	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
	Female,	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
January,	Male,	7	.	2	1	2	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	16
	Female,	1	2	.	1	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
February,	Male,	1	4	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Female,	1	2	3	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	12
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
March,	Male,	5	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Female,	1	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	6
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
April,	Male,	2	.	1	.	.	1	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	13
	Female,	2	4	1	.	.	1	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	13
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total,	Male,	23	18	25	7	4	7	12	13	7	6	8	2	.	132
	Female,	11	22	15	5	8	7	10	7	9	6	3	.	.	103
	Not stated,	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Month not stated,	Male,	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Female,	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Grand total,	.	34	44	42	12	12	14	22	20	16	12	11	2	.	241

* A triplet case in Harwich.

TABLE II. 1. ABSTRACT OF THE RETURNS OF MARRIAGES,
in the several Counties, for each month of the year ending April 30, 1845.

COUNTIES.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Month not stated.	TOTAL.
Essex, .	63	51	43	42	63	82	116	89	68	49	39	50	3	758
Middlesex, .	126	74	71	80	105	126	139	94	109	66	46	127	5	1168
Worcester, .	92	64	34	38	79	85	98	60	50	37	48	108	.	793
Hampshire, .	26	11	5	4	24	29	29	16	18	10	8	18	1	199
Hampden, .	29	11	10	16	15	20	17	15	20	13	14	12	1	193
Franklin, .	11	10	12	9	19	13	24	9	16	6	12	9	1	151
Berkshire, .	10	7	6	7	9	27	10	9	15	8	10	13	1	132
Norfolk, .	32	29	26	20	24	44	49	49	31	23	25	52	.	404
Bristol, .	38	38	28	37	36	46	42	39	33	27	26	28	1	419
Plymouth, .	19	23	14	16	31	35	41	33	24	10	14	24	4	288
Barnstable, .	13	7	7	7	6	21	49	38	20	14	13	23	4	222
Dukes, .	.	4	.	1	1	3	4	5	2	2	2	.	.	24
Nantucket, .	6	7	7	9	7	7	11	8	8	5	5	10	.	90
Total, .	465	336	263	286	419	538	629	464	414	270	262	474	21	4841

TABLE II. 2. CONDITIONS AND AGES OF PARTIES TO MARRIAGES,
for the year ending April 30, 1845.

(1.) BETWEEN BACHELORS AND MAIDS.

AGE OF THE MEN.	AGE OF THE WOMEN.												To TAL.	
	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	Age of women not stated.		Condition and age of women not stated.
Under 20, . . .	33	19	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	54
20 to 25, . . .	443	758	100	5	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	17	1	1326
25 to 30, . . .	184	524	217	23	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	.	962
30 to 35, . . .	24	96	89	26	8	3	1	.	.	.	.	5	.	252
35 to 40, . . .	4	21	32	17	2	4	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	82
40 to 45, . . .	2	2	5	5	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17
45 to 50, . . .	.	1	1	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
50 to 55, . . .	.	1	1	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	5
55 to 60, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
60 to 65, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
65 to 70, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
70 to 75, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
75 to 80, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Age of men not stat'd	14	21	9	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	719	3	769
Condition and age } of men not stated, }	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	15
Total, . . .	704	1444	457	81	17	15	2	1	.	.	.	765	4	3490

(2.) BETWEEN BACHELORS AND WIDOWS.

Under 20, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20 to 25, . . .	.	2	10	2	7	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	17
25 to 30, . . .	.	4	7	7	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	23
30 to 35, . . .	.	.	2	5	4	2	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	16
35 to 40, . . .	.	1	1	1	3	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
40 to 45, . . .	.	.	2	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
45 to 50, . . .	.	.	.	1	1	.	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	7
50 to 55, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
55 to 60, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	2
60 to 65, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
65 to 70, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
70 to 75, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
75 to 80, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Age of men not stat'd	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	20	.	21
Condition and age } of men not stated, }	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	8
Total, . . .	.	7	22	20	13	10	6	2	1	.	1	31	.	113

CONDITIONS AND AGES, &c.—*Continued.*

(3.) BETWEEN WIDOWERS AND MAIDS.

AGE OF THE MEN.	AGE OF THE WOMEN.												To TAL.	
	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	Age of women not stated.		Condition and age of women not stated.
Under 20, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20 to 25, . . .	5	7	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
25 to 30, . . .	9	33	13	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	62
30 to 35, . . .	4	21	26	21	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	82
35 to 40, . . .	2	11	28	12	7	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	63
40 to 45, . . .	.	5	15	20	13	8	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	64
45 to 50, . . .	.	2	3	6	11	11	5	2	.	.	.	4	.	44
50 to 55, . . .	1	.	3	2	8	5	3	.	.	.	.	1	.	23
55 to 60, . . .	1	.	.	1	3	3	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	11
60 to 65, . . .	.	.	1	2	.	6	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	12
65 to 70, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	3
70 to 75, . . .	.	.	.	1	.	2	1	3	2	.	.	.	.	9
75 to 80, . . .	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
Age of men not stat'd	2	4	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	84	8	102
Condition and age } of men not stated, }	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total, . . .	24	83	91	72	53	36	14	8	6	1	.	94	8	490

(4.) BETWEEN WIDOWERS AND WIDOWS.

AGE OF THE MEN.	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.	75 to 80.	Age of men not stat'd	Condition and age } of men not stated, }	To- TAL.
Under 20,
20 to 25,	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
25 to 30,	3	2	4	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
30 to 35,	1	8	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
35 to 40,	2	3	4	3	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
40 to 45,	2	5	7	4	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23
45 to 50,	3	2	6	9	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23
50 to 55,	5	7	4	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	19
55 to 60,	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	17
60 to 65,	3	1	6	2	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	16
65 to 70,	2	1	3	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	10
70 to 75,	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	5
75 to 80,	1
Age of men not stat'd	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	39	.	40
Condition and age } of men not stated, }
Total,	7	12	27	29	30	19	12	11	5	2	40	.	.	.	194

FOURTH REGISTRATION REPORT.

CONDITIONS AND AGES, &c.—*Continued.*

(5.) CONDITION OF PARTIES NOT STATED.

AGE OF THE MEN.	AGE OF THE WOMEN.													TOTAL OF MARRIAGES.		
	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	Age of women not stated.	Condition & age of men & women not stated.	To- TAL.	Men.	Women.
Under 20, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	56	738
20 to 25, . . .	6	20	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30	1389	1587
25 to 30, . . .	3	18	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	34	1093	602
30 to 35, . . .	1	6	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	371	201
35 to 40, . . .	.	1	5	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	175	117
40 to 45, . . .	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	115	92
45 to 50, . . .	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	85	43
50 to 55, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	48	23
55 to 60, . . .	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	31	18
60 to 65, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	29	6
65 to 70, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13	3
70 to 75, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14	.
75 to 80, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.
Age of men not stated, . . .	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1419	1411
Condition and age of men & women not stated, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	463	463	.	.
Total, . . .	10	46	20	1	5	1	2	.	.	.	.	6	463	554	4841	4841

NOTE.

These tables, in relation to marriage, are read as follows:—*First Table.* 443 men, between the ages of 20 and 25, were married to women under 20; 2 women, between 35 and 40, were married to men between 20 and 25; or 4 men between 35 and 40, were married to women under 20.—*Second Table.* 2 men, between 20 and 25, were married to widows between 40 and 45; or 1 man, between 25 and 30, to a widow, 65 to 70.—*Third Table.* 5 widowers, between 20 and 25, were married to women under 20, who had not before been married, and 1, between 55 and 60, to a woman under 20, &c. &c. The other tables in a similar manner.

TABLE III. 1. ABSTRACT OF THE RETURNS OF CAUSES OF DEATH,
for the year ending April 30, 1845.

DISEASE.	SEX.		AGE.												TIME OF DECEASE.												PLACE OF BIRTH.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
	Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	1 year to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	100 and upwards.	Unknown.	TIME OF DECEASE.												PLACE OF BIRTH.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
																		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Natives of the place where they died.	Natives of other places.	Foreigners.	Not stated.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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CAUSES OF DEATH—Continued.

DISEASE.	SEX.		AGE.													TIME OF DECEASE.												PLACE OF BIRTH.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
	Males.	Females.	Not stated.	Under 1 year.	1 year to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	100 and upwards.	Unknown.	TIME OF DECEASE.												AMERICANS. Natives of the place where they died.	Natives of other places.	Foreigners.	Not stated.	Total.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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Colic,	-	-	28	1	3	6	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	5	4	14	11	-	4	-		
Consumption,	-	-	828	-5	65	26	9	15	60	144	121	102	90	96	77	14	1	-	63	57	63	91	74	78	74	57	56	86	73	61	443	212	56	1	2	34	
Convulsions,	-	-	1239	-4	54	28	15	13	111	301	218	142	101	98	98	30	2	-	103	79	132	107	122	101	104	91	100	93	117	110	645	355	31	208	2072		
Convulsions,	-	-	106	-94	40	23	6	2	4	7	4	2	3	2	3	3	1	-	1	2	7	8	9	10	8	6	10	13	13	14	81	22	1	6	6		
Croup,	-	-	132	-4	33	26	56	17	4	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	2	-	6	3	6	12	9	15	19	22	13	12	10	9	114	18	-	4	4		
Cystitis,	-	-	5	-	11	29	62	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	18	15	9	97	18	1	1	1		
Debility,	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5			
Delirium Tremens,	-	-	10	-9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	2	-	4	5	-	-	15			
Diarrhœa,	-	-	8	-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	8	2	-	1	13		
Diabetes,	-	-	6	-16	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	7	2	2	1	1	-	-	1	14	4	2	-	1	24	
Dropsy,	-	-	78	-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	39	1	-	-	7		
Dropsy of the Chest,	-	-	29	-101	-2	11	7	5	4	7	9	6	6	7	13	16	11	-	8	7	11	4	7	5	5	6	4	6	9	50	32	2	15	-	20	181	
Drowned,	-	-	105	-20	-1	-	1	2	9	11	19	25	18	9	5	2	1	-	3	2	3	1	2	5	-	2	4	3	4	13	8	4	4	6	49		
Dysentery,	-	-	100	-8	-1	3	3	2	1	1	19	25	18	9	5	2	1	-	7	12	11	10	12	11	12	6	6	1	15	3	66	23	3	14	1	114	
Dyspepsia,	-	-	4	-96	-32	19	11	2	6	2	3	2	3	2	4	20	32	24	2	2	4	20	32	24	4	2	2	1	2	-	82	14	-	8	-	200	
Enteritis,	-	-	2	-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	1	69	15	-	12	12		
Epilepsy,	-	-	3	-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
Erysipelas,	-	-	45	-4	-10	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7		
Fever,	-	-	117	-1	8	7	11	10	12	22	19	6	7	4	7	4	5	-	9	7	4	6	3	3	6	1	2	9	7	9	27	31	9	1	6	-	11
" Bilious,	-	-	18	-	8	7	9	7	29	23	12	7	4	7	19	3	-	-	5	10	8	14	13	16	12	13	6	5	7	9	68	24	6	20	-	20	
	-	-	18	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4	4	3	1	1	1	-	-	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	10	72	34	5	28	257	
	-	-	18	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	3	3	3	1	3	2	-	-	3	2	1	-	5	2	4	1	2	1	1	8	5	1	3	-	-	36	

CAUSES OF DEATH—Continued.

DISEASE.	SEX.		AGE.													TIME OF DECEASE.												PLACE OF BIRTH.								
	Males.	Females.	Not stated.																																	
				Under 1 year.	1 year to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	100 and upwards.	Unknown.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Natives of the place where they died.	Natives of other places.	Foreigners.	Not stated.	Total.	
Fever, Intermittent, -	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
" Puerperal, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
" Remittent, -	1	-	-	-	19	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	4	5	-	-	4	1	10	3	10	19	1	5	-	35
" Typhus, -	272	-	-	4	6	6	15	57	84	27	24	18	10	8	2	-	11	-	4	5	8	21	54	78	44	22	12	10	9	138	88	4	42	-	1	
" Yellow, -	5	-	-	2	1	8	13	63	76	21	17	13	11	10	5	-	3	-	4	6	9	27	41	59	32	23	19	7	12	4	118	85	3	37	515	-
Fistula in Ano, -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	5	
Fracture, -	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	
Gastritis, -	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	-	3
Gout, -	4	5	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	-	11
Generation org., Dis. of, -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Gravel, -	8	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	

Heart, Disease of,	55	-	1	3	1	1	5	6	4	5	4	6	2	4	14	12	-	-	-	4	4	2	6	1	4	5	2	7	6	37	13	1	5	11
Hemorrhage, -	14	-	-	7	1	2	5	10	6	5	6	5	2	3	1	8	3	-	-	5	3	5	5	4	7	4	2	2	5	30	17	-	8	11
Hip Complaint, -	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	6	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	4	-	1	28
Hooping Cough,	37	-	2	20	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
Hydrocephalus,	83	-	2	32	20	15	3	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	1	4	2	7	4	3	1	2	26	3	-	1	68	
Infantile, -	207	-	71	27	27	15	14	8	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	3	3	5	7	8	6	6	7	14	69	19	-	5	189	
Inflammation, -	3	-	-	132	33	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	16	13	25	39	27	21	18	21	221	18	-	39	450	
Influenza,	9	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	2	6	
Intemperance, -	22	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	6	3	4	4	2	-	1	1	3	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	4	-	3	1	5	5	2	-	16	
Insanity, -	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	-	8	23	
Jaundice, -	8	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	2	3	2	-	2	12	
Kidneys, Disease of,	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	1	-	1	12	
Laryngitis, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Liver, Disease of,	27	-	1	2	1	-	-	2	1	4	5	8	1	-	8	1	-	-	-	3	3	1	1	6	1	2	-	5	14	-	9	1	3	5
Lungs, Disease of,	7	-	2	2	1	-	-	2	3	4	2	3	6	1	4	2	-	-	-	3	2	4	4	2	-	-	1	1	12	7	1	4	51	
Malformation, -	3	-	2	2	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	4	3	-	-	14	
Marasmus, -	9	-	1	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4	
Measles, -	24	-	5	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	1	7	1	9	1	18	
Mortification, -	16	-	2	8	6	3	-	1	-	2	2	3	5	2	4	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	2	3	8	5	2	-	6	44
	10	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	2	10	3	1	2	26	

CAUSES OF DEATH—Continued.

DISEASE.	SEX.		AGE.													TIME OF DECEASE.												PLACE OF BIRTH.								
	Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	1 year to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Unknown.	TIME OF DECEASE.												PLACE OF BIRTH.							
																	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Natives of the place where they died.	Natives of other places.	Foreigners.	Not stated.	Total.			
Nephritis, -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	3		
Neuralgia, -	6	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	8		
Old Age, -	210	294	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	453	121	27	5	17	14	16	20	18	19	10	23	11	23	25	33	23	27	107	48	3	52	1	8	
Ovaries, Disease of, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	271	150	59	4	7	18	14	28	30	24	22	22	28	25	33	23	27	114	78	3	99	504	-		
Paralysis, -	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	6	19	12	2	1	3	4	-	2	4	3	1	8	5	5	7	3	1	1	26	10	1	8	-	2
Pericarditis, -	10	72	1	-	2	-	1	1	2	1	3	8	15	33	8	3	7	1	8	3	5	10	7	5	7	7	1	2	1	39	24	1	9	117	-	
Peritonitis, -	7	3	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	7	3	1	-	13	-	
Pleurisy, -	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	2	1	-	1	12	-
Pneumonia, -	174	174	1	28	27	10	9	6	7	3	10	3	4	-	-	2	-	5	9	5	8	11	8	15	1	2	4	-	3	4	1	1	1	2	20	-
Poisoned, -	5	-	43	23	24	5	4	7	7	9	7	11	8	2	2	1	14	6	6	6	7	11	8	16	18	19	30	27	118	36	3	5	20	350	-	
Purpura, -	4	-	2	1	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	3	-	-	10	-	4

[illegible]

TABLE III. 2. CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES,
for the year ending April 30, 1845.

1. ZIMOTIC DISEASES; OR, EPIDEMIC, ENDEMIC, AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Berkshire.	Franklin.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Nantucket & Dukes.	TOTALS.
1	Cholera,	6	12	7	2	3	.	3	5	3	2	2	.	45
2	Cholera Infantum,	24	50	14	1	5	.	1	5	4	5	1	1	111
3	Croup,	75	36	67	8	11	8	3	5	24	4	10	10	261
4	Diarrhœa,	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	2	4	7	24
5	Dysentery,	15	25	50	7	7	8	13	15	29	18	10	3	200
6	Erysipelas,	19	12	33	13	16	1	9	1	2	3	2	.	111
7	Fever Intermittent, . . . . .	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	3
8	Fever Remittent,	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	4	.	6
9	Fever Typhus,	125	139	146	19	45	59	34	77	45	28	28	27	772
10	Hooping Cough,	5	21	14	6	4	7	2	4	2	2	1	.	68
11	Influenza,	1	2	.	1	.	.	2	3	.	3	2	2	16
12	Measles,	17	14	2	.	5	.	.	.	4	.	1	1	44
13	Scarlatina,	82	58	107	13	20	41	10	28	67	78	34	.	538
14	Small Pox,	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	5
15	Syphilis, . . . . .	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	3
16	Thrush, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Totals,		374	376	440	72	116	124	77	149	182	145	102	51	2208
2. DISEASES OF GENERAL OR UNCERTAIN SEAT.														
17	Abscess, . . . . .	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	3
18	Atrophy,	1	.	1	1	3	1	5	1	.	3	2	.	18
19	Cancer,	18	15	24	5	6	2	5	10	4	6	3	1	99
20	Debility,	2	.	2	3	.	.	5	.	2	.	.	.	15
21	Dropsy,	70	.	44	15	17	.	12	18	.	.	.	5	181
22	Gout,	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	5
23	Hemorrhage,	4	4	2	2	2	5	.	2	3	1	3	.	28
24	Infantile Diseases,	70	100	85	10	16	15	7	58	59	17	13	.	450
25	Inflammation, . . . . .	.	.	.	1	2	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	6
26	Malformation,	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	4
27	Mortification,	7	4	7	.	1	1	1	2	2	1	.	.	26
28	Scrofula,	10	9	9	.	3	3	1	4	1	2	.	.	42
29	Sudden Deaths, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	Tumor,	2	.	2	1	.	.	2	2	3	.	.	.	12
Totals,		187	135	178	38	51	27	40	97	76	31	22	7	889
3. DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.														
31	Apoplexy,	20	13	15	3	5	.	5	4	3	11	1	2	82
32	Cephalitis,	13	21	14	.	12	5	5	.	10	3	10	1	94
33	Chorea, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.—*Continued.*

3. DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.— <i>Continued.</i>		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Berkshire.	Franklin.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Nantucket & Dukes.	TOTALS.
34	Convulsions,	36	42	29	8	16	14	5	18	22	8	4	2	204
35	Delirium Tremens,	1	4	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
36	Epilepsy,	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	7
37	Hydrocephalus,	37	53	20	9	16	11	1	8	17	6	9	2	189
38	Insanity,	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	12
39	Paralysis,	39	9	25	5	1	7	3	8	4	4	10	3	117
40	Tetanus,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	5
41	Brain, &c., Disease of,	8	19	2	2	5	9	1	10	4	4	5	1	69
Totals,		161	163	111	29	56	50	20	53	62	40	39	10	794
4. DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.														
42	Asthma,	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	9
43	Bronchitis,	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
44	Consumption,	386	357	355	99	98	103	89	158	151	122	99	55	2072
45	Hydrothorax,	1	33	1	2	1	9	1	1	1	3	2	1	49
46	Laryngitis,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
47	Pleurisy,	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	20
48	Pneumonia,	61	68	67	13	21	37	12	19	25	12	15	1	350
49	Quinsy,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	8	1	11
50	Lungs, &c., Disease of,	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	14
Totals,		453	466	434	116	121	152	106	187	180	141	130	56	2542
5. DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF CIRCULATION.														
51	Aneurism,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
52	Pericarditis,	1	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	13
53	Heart, &c., Disease of,	30	23	19	3	6	7	3	6	5	9	4	5	120
Totals,		31	25	26	3	6	7	3	6	7	9	7	6	136
6. DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.														
54	Ascites,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
55	Colic,	5	1	5	3	2	1	1	1	5	10	2	1	34
56	Dyspepsia,	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	12
57	Enteritis,	21	20	22	16	12	14	16	8	9	1	4	2	145
58	Gastritis,	1	4	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	11
59	Hernia,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
60	Intussusception,	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
61	Peritonitis,	3	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
62	Teething,	7	10	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	31
63	Ulceration,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
64	Worms,	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.—*Continued.*

6. DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.— <i>Continued.</i>		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Berkshire.	Franklin.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Nantucket & Dukes.	TOTALS.
65	Organs, &c., Disease of, . . .	24	51	72	1	3	1	6	12	13	8	3	.	194
66	Pancreas, Disease of, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
67	Hepatitis, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
68	Jaundice, . . .	4	1	1	.	2	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	12
69	Liver, Disease of, . . .	8	5	9	3	5	2	1	2	8	6	1	1	51
70	Spleen, Disease of, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Totals, . . .		74	100	124	24	28	24	23	30	41	28	14	7	517
7. DISEASES OF THE URINARY ORGANS.														
71	Diabetes, . . .	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	7
72	Cystitis, . . .	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	5
73	Gravel, . . .	.	2	2	.	1	2	.	1	.	1	.	.	9
74	Nephritis, . . .	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
75	Kidneys, &c., Disease of, . . .	1	4	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	8
Totals, . . .		4	7	8	1	2	4	.	1	1	2	2	.	32
8. DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION.														
76	Childbirth, . . .	6	13	8	4	2	7	1	.	4	2	1	4	52
77	Puerperal Fever, . . .	5	6	.	3	6	5	8	2	.	.	.	.	35
78	Paramenia, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
79	Organs, &c., Disease of, . . .	.	1	3	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	1	.	8
Totals, . . .		11	20	11	7	8	12	10	3	4	3	2	4	95
9. DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION.														
80	Rheumatism, . . .	4	3	2	1	2	1	1	.	.	2	1	.	17
81	Joints, &c., Disease of, . . .	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
82	Hip, Disease of, . . .	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
83	Spine, Disease of, . . .	2	7	.	1	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	14
Totals, . . .		7	11	2	2	4	2	1	2	.	2	1	.	34
10. DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.														
84	Fistula, . . .	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
85	Ulcers, . . .	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	3	3	.	.	10
86	Purpura, . . .	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
87	Skin, &c., Disease of, . . .	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Totals, . . .		4	3	1	.	.	2	.	1	3	3	.	.	17

FOURTH REGISTRATION REPORT.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.—*Continued.*

		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Berkshire.	Franklin.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Nantucket & Dukes.	TOTALS.
88	11. OF OLD AGE, . . .	65	78	78	22	33	39	18	42	43	48	25	13	504
	12. OF EXTERNAL CAUSES.													
89	Burns and Scalds, . . .	4	3	4	2	5	.	3	4	2	2	3	1	33
90	Casualties,	9	18	16	7	10	8	4	4	3	2	2	1	84
92	Drowned,	27	17	8	2	2	9	2	9	2	3	31	2	114
94	Fractures, . . . .	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	3
99	Intemperance, . . .	5	3	6	2	.	.	1	3	3	.	.	.	23
103	Poisoned, . . . .	.	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	4	1	.	.	10
105	Suffocation, . . . .	.	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	6
106	Suicide,	4	4	7	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	.	29
	Totals,	49	52	43	15	20	19	13	21	19	9	38	4	302
108	13. CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED,	69	56	66	66	62	19	17	48	97	22	26	24	572
109	14. STILLBORN, . . .	15	14	5	.	2	7	3	17	4	1	.	5	73
	Totals,	1504	1506	1527	509	395	488	331	657	719	484	408	187	8715

NOTES TO THE ABSTRACTS OF DISEASES.

It has been considered desirable to institute, as far as we can from the returns, a comparison of the prevalence of particular diseases, in the same districts, for different years. Boston having made no returns of deaths for the last two years specified, it would give a very inaccurate view of the subject to include the returns for that city in the first two, especially as one of these does not cover the same period as the other returns. The County of Suffolk is therefore excluded in the several abstracts of deaths.

In the Tables for 1845, the Alphabetical Abstract contains the names of the diseases, generally, as they appear in the returns. In the Classified Abstract, they are arranged after the plan of the Registrar General of Births, Marriages and Deaths in England, with some alterations, which circumstances in this country seemed to dictate. They are numbered for the purpose of convenient reference, and each class is arranged alphabetically. The numbers in parentheses in the following notes are references to the heads, under which diseases are arranged in the Classified Abstract. Those who may wish for a more particular sub-division of the diseases for 1845, or the age or month of the year in which they occurred, may consult the Alphabetical Abstract.

NOTES.—1845.

Zimotic Diseases. Under Cholera (1) are included 39 cases of Cholera Morbus. Under Fever Remittent (8) are included 7 cases of Yellow Fever. Under Fever Typhus (9) are included 245 cases of Fever, 7 of Typhoid, and 3 of Congestive. Under Scarlatina (13) are included 161 cases of Canker, 1 of Disease of the Throat, and 5 of Throat Distemper. Under Small Pox (14) are included 2 cases of Chicken Pox, and 1 of Varioloid.

Diseases of Uncertain or General Seat. Under Hemorrhage (23) are included 7 cases of Hemoptysis, 5 of Hematemesis, 4 of Rupture, and 1 of Epistaxis. Under Malformation (26) is included 1 case of Anus Imperforatus. Under Scrofula (28) are included 2 cases of Rachites. Under Brain, &c., Disease of (41) are included 7 cases of Neuralgia, 4 of Congestion, 2 of Concussion, and 1 of Tic Doreux.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs. Under Bronchitis (43) are included 5 cases of Catarrh. Under Pneumonia (48) are included 256 cases of Lung Fever. Under Lungs, &c., Disease of (50) are included 2 Congestion of the Lungs.

Diseases of the Organs of Circulation. Under Heart, &c., Disease of (53) are included 4 cases of Anemia, and 3 of Angina Pectoris.

Diseases of the Digestive Organs. Under Colic (55) are included 24 cases of Constipation of the Bowels. Under Enteritis (57) are included 89 cases of Inflammation of the Bowels, and 29 of Bilious Fever. Under Organs, &c., Disease of (65) are included 187 cases of Disease of the Bowels, 2 of Disease of the Stomach, and 4 of Disease of the Tongue.

Diseases of the Urinary Organs. Under Kidneys, &c., Disease of (75) are included 1 case of Fistula of the Urethra, and 1 of Disease of the Kidneys.

Diseases of the Organs of Generation. Under Organs, &c., Disease of (79) are included 5 cases of Strangury, 2 of Disease of Ovaries, and 1 of Disease of the Prostate Gland.

Disease of the Organs of Locomotion. Under Joints, &c., Disease of (81) is included 1 case of Disease of the Bones.

Diseases of the Integumentary System. Under Purpura (86) are included 3 cases of Scurvy. Under Skin, &c., Disease of (87) are included 1 case of Psoriasis, and 1 of Carbuncle.

TABLE III. 3. ABSTRACT OF RETURNS OF CAUSES OF DEATHS
in the four years 1842, 1843, 1844, and 1845.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	To 10,000 DEATHS BY ALL SPECIFIED CAUSES, THERE WERE IN			
					1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
All Causes,	7496	8305	8250	8715				
Specified Causes,	6149	7177	7076	8070	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
1 Zimotic Diseases; or, Epidemic, Endemic, and Contagious Diseases.	1626	1854	1627	2208	2644	2583	2299	2736
SPORADIC DISEASES.								
2 Of Uncertain or General Seat,	458	892	1150	889	745	1243	1625	1102
3 Of the Nervous System,	548	676	631	794	891	942	892	984
4 Of the Respiratory Organs,	1959	2047	2036	2542	3186	2852	2878	3150
5 Of the Organs of Circulation,	119	123	141	136	194	171	199	168
6 Of the Digestive Organs,	257	537	433	517	418	748	612	641
7 Of the Urinary Organs,	24	32	32	32	39	45	45	40
8 Of the Organs of Generation,	81	119	68	95	132	166	96	118
9 Of the Organs of Locomotion,	42	39	34	34	68	54	48	42
10 Of the Integumentary System,	9	14	12	17	15	20	17	21
11 Of Old Age,	652	573	631	504	1060	798	892	624
12 Of External Causes,	374	271	281	302	608	378	397	374
Totals,	6149	7177	7076	8070	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
1								
1 Cholera,	20	28	28	45	33	39	40	56
2 Cholera Infantum,	98	92	87	111	159	128	123	138
3 Croup,	129	115	122	261	210	160	172	323
4 Diarrhœa,	27	25	30	24	44	35	42	30
5 Dysentery,	213	274	120	200	346	382	170	248
6 Erysipelas,	31	128	104	111	50	178	147	137
7 Fever Intermittent, . . . . .	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	4
8 Fever Remittent, . . . . .	.	.	2	6	.	.	3	7
9 Fever Typhus,	541	515	634	772	880	718	896	957
10 Hooping Cough,	43	61	60	68	70	85	85	84
11 Influenza,	29	8	68	16	47	11	96	20
12 Measles,	86	30	32	44	140	42	45	54
13 Scarlatina,	396	561	328	538	644	781	463	667
14 Small Pox,	13	12	11	5	21	17	16	6
15 Syphilis, . . . . .	.	1	.	3	.	1	.	4
16 Thrush, . . . . .	.	4	1	1	.	6	1	1
Totals,	1626	1854	1627	2208	2644	2583	2299	2736
2								
17 Abscess,	12	9	9	3	20	12	13	4
18 Atrophy, . . . . .	.	45	50	18	.	64	71	22
19 Cancer,	85	83	94	99	138	116	133	123
20 Debility,	24	20	25	15	39	28	35	19
21 Dropsy,	144	170	163	181	234	237	230	224

CAUSES OF DEATHS.—*Continued.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.		1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	To 10,000 DEATHS BY ALL SPECIFIED CAUSES, THERE WERE IN			
						1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
22	Gout,	1	.	2	5	2	.	3	6
23	Hemorrhage,	29	26	20	28	47	36	28	35
24	Infantile Diseases,	88	408	663	450	143	568	937	558
25	Inflammation,	1	21	35	6	2	29	49	7
26	Malformation,	8	5	4	4	13	7	6	5
27	Mortification,	21	33	25	26	34	46	35	32
28	Scrofula,	23	31	27	42	37	43	38	52
29	Sudden Deaths,	5	28	27	.	8	39	38	.
30	Tumor,	17	13	6	12	28	18	9	15
Totals,		458	892	1150	889	745	1243	1625	1102
3									
31	Apoplexy,	84	101	82	82	137	141	116	101
32	Cephalitis,	69	93	92	94	112	130	130	116
33	Chorea,	2	.	3	2	3	.	4	3
34	Convulsions,	121	157	130	204	197	219	184	254
35	Delirium Tremens, . . . . .	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	16
36	Epilepsy,	10	12	15	7	16	17	22	9
37	Hydrocephalus,	112	129	129	189	182	179	182	234
38	Insanity,	23	18	10	12	38	25	14	15
39	Paralysis,	112	134	111	117	182	187	157	145
40	Tetanus,	7	2	3	5	11	3	4	6
41	Brain, &c., Disease of,	8	30	56	69	13	41	79	85
Totals,		548	676	631	794	891	942	892	984
4									
42	Asthma,	6	7	4	9	10	10	6	11
43	Bronchitis,	21	16	15	12	34	22	21	15
44	Consumption,	1530	1607	1634	2072	2488	2239	2309	2567
45	Hydrothorax,	28	28	16	49	45	39	23	61
46	Laryngitis,	1	2	2	5	2	3	3	6
47	Pleurisy,	36	34	25	20	59	47	36	25
48	Pnenmonia,	331	348	337	350	538	485	476	434
49	Quinsy,	3	5	3	11	5	7	4	14
50	Lungs, &c., Disease of,	3	.	.	14	5	.	.	17
Totals,		1959	2047	2036	2542	3186	2852	2878	3150
5									
51	Aneurism,	1	.	2	3	2	.	3	4
52	Pericarditis, . . . . .	.	1	.	13	.	1	.	16
53	Heart, &c., Disease of,	118	122	139	120	192	170	196	148
Totals,		119	123	141	136	194	171	199	168
6									
54	Ascites, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
55	Colic,	22	28	15	34	36	39	21	42
56	Dyspepsia,	3	14	6	12	5	20	8	15
57	Enteritis,	82	189	116	145	133	263	165	179

CAUSES OF DEATHS.—*Continued.*

	CAUSES OF DEATH.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	To 10,000 DEATHS BY ALL SPECIFIED CAUSES THERE WERE IN			
						1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
58	Gastritis,	7	16	16	11	11	22	22	13
59	Hernia,	9	15	19	.	14	21	28	.
60	Intussusception,	14	20	17	5	23	28	24	6
61	Peritonitis,	12	14	16	12	20	20	23	15
62	Teething, . . . . .	.	25	24	31	.	35	34	38
63	Ulceration,	13	32	23	.	21	45	32	.
64	Worms,	3	5	4	10	5	7	6	12
65	Organs, &c., Disease of,	32	131	139	194	52	182	196	243
66	Pancreas, Disease of,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
67	Hepatitis,	27	3	4	.	44	4	6	.
68	Jaundice,	12	16	7	12	20	22	10	15
69	Liver, Disease of,	20	29	27	51	32	40	37	63
70	Spleen, Disease of,	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
	Totals,	257	537	433	517	418	748	612	641
	7								
71	Diabetes,	3	9	7	7	5	13	10	9
72	Cystitis,	3	6	5	5	5	9	7	16
73	Gravel,	12	11	11	9	19	15	15	11
74	Nephritis,	6	6	9	3	10	8	13	4
75	Kidneys, &c., Disease of,	.	.	.	8	.	.	.	10
	Totals,	24	32	32	32	39	45	45	40
	8								
76	Childbirth,	45	55	30	52	73	77	42	65
77	Puerperal Fever,	28	52	33	35	46	73	47	43
78	Paramenia,	1	1	1	.	2	1	1	.
79	Organs, &c., Disease of,	7	11	4	8	11	15	6	10
	Totals,	81	119	68	95	132	166	96	118
	9								
80	Rheumatism,	16	20	14	17	26	28	20	21
81	Joints, &c., Disease of,	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
82	Hip, Disease of,	2	4	1	2	3	6	1	3
83	Spine, Disease of,	24	15	19	14	39	20	27	17
	Totals,	42	39	34	34	68	54	48	42
	10								
84	Fistula,	1	.	.	1	2	.	.	1
85	Ulcers,	1	8	8	10	2	11	12	12
86	Purpura,	5	6	3	4	8	9	4	5
87	Skin, &c., Disease of,	2	.	1	2	3	.	1	3
	Totals,	9	14	12	17	15	20	17	21
	11								
88	Old Age,—Totals,	652	573	631	504	1060	798	892	624

CAUSES OF DEATHS.—*Continued.*

	CAUSES OF DEATH.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	TO 10,000 DEATHS BY ALL SPECIFIED CAUSES, THERE WERE IN			
						1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
	12								
89	Burns and Scalds,	31	28	22	33	50	39	31	41
90	Casualties,	69	91	81	84	112	127	115	104
91	Drinking Cold Water,								
92	Drowned,	152	64	88	114	247	89	124	141
93	Executed,								
94	Fractures,		4	5	3		6	7	4
95	Frozen,		1	1			1	1	
96	Glanders,								
97	Hydrophobia,								
98	Homicide,	3	5	5		5	7	7	
99	Intemperance,	76	47	40	23	124	66	57	29
100	Lightning,								
101	Malpractice,	1	1	1		2	1	1	
102	Necusial,								
103	Poisoned,	5	2	6	10	8	3	9	12
104	Starvation,								
105	Suffocation,				6				7
106	Suicide,	37	28	32	29	60	39	45	36
107	Wounds,								
	Totals,	374	271	281	302	608	378	397	374
	13								
108	Causes not specified,	1347	1128	1174	572	2191	1572	1658	709
	14								
109	Stillborn,	42	38	49	73	68	53	69	90

NOTE.

The number of the *stillborn*, in 1845, is stated above to be 73, while in the table on the opposite page it is 102. The cause of this disagreement is that the first number (73) was abstracted from the returns of the deaths; and the second (102) from the returns of the births. The stillborn should always be fully reported, both among the births and deaths; but, having never lived as separate, independent persons, they should be excluded in numbering the deaths. This has been done in all the calculations in these tables. The previous page (55) was printed by mistake with 8715, as the number of deaths from all causes, when it should have been 8642, the number after excluding the 73 stillborn. A deduction of 572 for causes not specified, leaves 8070, as the number of deaths for specified causes, and this was the basis of the calculations.

TABLE III. 4. STILLBORN CASES.

MONTH.	SEX.	COUNTIES.												TOTAL.	
		Essex.	Middlesex.	Worcester.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Franklin.	Berkshire.	Norfolk.	Bristol.	Plymouth.	Barnstable.	Dukes.		Nantucket.
May,	Male,	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	.	6
	Female,	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Not stated,	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
June,	Male,	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	3
	Female,	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Not stated,	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
July,	Male,	1	1	.	.	.	3	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	7
	Female,	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Not stated,	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
August,	Male,	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	5
	Female,	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
September,	Male,	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Female,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Not stated,	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
October,	Male,	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	3
	Female,	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
	Not stated,	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
November,	Male,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Female,	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	3
December,	Male,	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Female,	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
January,	Male,	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2
	Female,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Not stated,	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
February,	Male,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Female,	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	4
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
March,	Male,	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Female,	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	4
	Not stated,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
April,	Male,	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	5
	Female,	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Not stated,	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Total,	Male,	5	4	6	.	.	4	4	7	4	.	1	4	.	39
	Female,	.	9	8	.	1	1	.	2	.	1	1	.	.	23
	Not stated,	4	8	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	16
Month not stated,	Male,	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Female,	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Not stated,	5	.	1	2	.	.	2	7	.	3	.	.	.	20
Grand total,	.	14	21	20	2	2	5	6	17	4	5	2	4	.	102

TABLE IV. FACTS ILLUSTRATING THE INFLUENCE OF OCCUPATION ON LONGEVITY,

Showing the number, and the aggregate and average ages of individuals differently employed, abstracted from the returns.

[NOTE. In 1845, no person under 20 years of age is included in this abstract. It is supposed that occupations have no particular influence before that time.]

OCCUPATIONS.	1842.		1843.		1844.			1845.		
	Number.	Average age.	Number.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.
Clergymen,	14	55	22	55	18	935	51.96	11	555	50.00
Lawyers,	12	56	5	53	7	311	44.92	7	346	49.42
Physicians,	7	61	25	57	27	1464	54.25	20	1132	56.60
Professors, . . . .	.	.	.	.	2	75	37.50	.	.	.
Scholars,	12	30	7	24	14	291	20.79	3	70	23.33
Teachers,	9	38	16	37	14	473	33.78	21	626	29.85
Total,	54	.	75	.	82	3549	43.28	62	2724	43.93
Booksellers, . . . .	.	.	1	25	2	63	31.50	1	26	26.00
Gentlemen,	5	47	7	58	12	925	77.14	9	613	68.11
Merchants,	39	50	41	49	59	3019	51.17	46	2304	50.08
Traders,	34	45	44	56	2	49	24.50	34	1460	42.94
Total,	78	.	93	.	75	4056	54.08	90	4403	48.92
Farmers,	660	66	706	66	663	42,447	64.02	645	39,869	61.64
Clerks,	26	38	13	31	11	270	24.54	11	402	36.54
Public Officers,	2	50	9	54	8	461	57.63	6	338	56.33
Engineers,	3	35	.	.	.	.	.	2	63	31.50
Innkeepers,	8	51	5	31	6	286	47.79	8	393	49.12
Stage Drivers,	2	45	1	25	.	.	.	4	147	36.75
Drover, . . . .	.	.	1	55	.	.	.	1	20	20.00
Wharfinger, . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	181	60.33
Total,	41	.	29	.	25	1017	40.68	35	1544	44.11
Bakers,	9	42	5	53	6	343	57.19	4	191	47.75
Barbers, . . . .	.	.	.	.	4	236	59.03	1	24	24.00
Basket-maker, . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	69	69.05	.	.	.
Blacksmiths,	34	57	35	59	31	1550	50.00	45	2346	52.13
Block-makers, . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	131	65.50
Bookbinders, . . . .	.	.	4	31	.	.	.	1	29	29.00
Brush-makers, . . . .	.	.	1	25	.	.	.	1	39	39.00
Butchers,	6	39	3	62	5	225	45.08	6	320	53.33
Cabinet-makers,	14	38	7	41	11	499	45.54	13	642	49.38
Card-makers, . . . .	.	.	3	65	1	53	53.00	1	31	31.00
Carpenters,	95	62	99	48	76	3908	51.42	79	4129	52.26
Caulkers and Gravers, . . . .	.	.	3	58	1	62	62.00	2	145	72.50
Chair-makers, . . . .	.	.	1	75	3	122	40.66	.	.	.

INFLUENCE OF OCCUPATION, &c.—*Continued*

OCCUPATIONS.	1842.		1843.		1844.			1845.		
	Number.	Average age.	Number.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.
Cigar-makers, . . . . .	.	.	1	35	4	136	34.00	2	60	30.00
Clock-makers, . . . . .	.	.	5	49	1	46	46.00	.	.	.
Clothiers, . . . . .	.	.	1	45	2	143	71.50	.	.	.
Comb-makers, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	3	161	53.66	.	.	.
Confectioners, . . . . .	.	.	2	55	.	.	.	1	51	51.00
Coopers,	9	52	18	59	14	705	50.39	13	843	64.76
Curriers,	12	50	12	51	4	223	55.77	2	54	27.00
Cutlers, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	24	24.00	2	111	55.50
Distiller, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	51	51.00
Furnace men, . . . . .	.	.	1	25	4	158	39.71	1	32	32.00
Gas-preparer, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	25	25.00	.	.	.
Grave-digger, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	61	61.00	.	.	.
Gunsmith, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	30	30.00	.	.	.
Harness-makers,	3	61	4	27	2	114	57.00	7	340	48.57
Hatters,	5	67	4	40	5	255	51.11	5	348	69.60
Jewellers, . . . . .	.	.	2	25	3	92	30.66	5	240	48.00
Last-makers, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	2	68	34.00	.	.	.
Leather-dressers, . . . . .	.	.	2	50	8	395	49.47	.	.	.
Machinists,	14	46	8	46	6	170	28.37	13	437	33.61
Manufacturers,	26	35	2	50	4	149	37.28	31	1333	43.00
Masons,	20	41	21	54	14	603	43.10	21	1182	56.28
Mast-maker, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	75	75.00	.	.	.
Mechanics,	29	46	28	43	16	722	45.17	9	406	45.11
Millers,	4	47	10	51	4	240	60.00	5	242	48.40
Millwrights, . . . . .	.	.	2	65	1	26	26.00	.	.	.
Nailers, . . . . .	.	.	1	55	2	37	18.70	4	153	38.24
Oil manufacturer, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	43	43.00	.	.	.
Operatives, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	9	266	38.41	.	.	.
Painters,	12	41	8	42	21	869	41.40	10	411	41.10
Paper-makers,	3	41	1	35	4	177	44.25	3	124	41.33
Pianoforte-maker, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	24	24.00
Pocketbook-maker, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	69	69.00
Printers,	5	37	5	31	4	207	51.75	4	118	29.50
Pump-makers, . . . . .	.	.	1	35	1	48	48.00	.	.	.
Razorstrop-maker, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	47	47.00	.	.	.
Riggers, . . . . .	.	.	1	65	.	.	.	1	53	53.00
Rope-makers, . . . . .	.	.	7	56	4	156	39.18	2	90	45.00
Sail-makers,	3	45	2	60	2	140	70.00	.	.	.
Salt manufacturers, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	2	109	54.89	.	.	.
Shipwrights,	2	70	19	66	10	648	64.85	5	290	58.00
Shoe-makers,	104	46	113	48	110	4395	39.95	134	5596	41.76
Stablers,	5	27	4	33	3	83	27.66	3	158	39.50
Stone-cutters,	8	49	5	45	6	390	65.00	10	416	41.61
Tailors,	10	54	10	47	12	534	46.56	12	600	50.00
Tallow-chandlers, . . . . .	.	.	4	65	1	53	53.00	.	.	.
Telescope-maker, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	25	25.00	.	.	.
Tin-men,	3	25	2	21	1	19	19.00	.	.	.
Victuallers,	5	51	3	68	2	104	52.47	3	140	46.66
Wheelwrights,	12	56	11	56	12	515	42.75	6	192	32.00
Wood-turners, . . . . .	.	.	1	45	1	34	34.00	1	56	56.00

INFLUENCE OF OCCUPATION, &c.—*Continued.*

OCCUPATIONS.	1842.		1843.		1844.			1845.		
	Number.	Average age.	Number.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.
Wool-dyers, . . .	.	.	1	35	1	42	42.00	1	55	55.00
Wool-sorters, . . .	.	.	1	45	.	.	.	2	96	48.00
Total, . . .	452	.	484	.	452	20,629	45.63	477	22,398	46.96
Male Domestics, . . .	.	.	.	.	20	1129	56.47	.	.	.
Laborers, . . .	193	49	171	51	158	8034	50.85	208	10,358	49.79
Teamsters, . . .	2	45	8	41	4	153	38.41	11	332	30.18
Total, . . .	195	.	179	.	182	9316	51.18	219	10,690	48.81
Fish-dealer, . . .	.	.	.	.	1	68	68.00	.	.	.
Fishermen, . . .	13	49	8	44	13	528	40.66	14	580	41.42
Freighters, . . .	.	.	.	.	3	117	39.16	.	.	.
Pilots, . . .	3	55	.	.	1	74	74.00	.	.	.
Seamen, . . .	176	39	199	43	129	4746	37.02	131	5626	42.94
Ship-masters, . . .	.	.	.	.	11	693	63.06	.	.	.
Shoremen, . . .	.	.	.	.	4	274	68.70	.	.	.
Total, . . .	192	.	207	.	162	6500	40.12	145	6206	42.80
Paupers, . . .	15	56	32	71	31	2270	73.25	5	408	81.60
Insane, . . .	.	.	.	.	4	212	53.00	.	.	.
Total, . . .	15	.	32	.	35	2482	70.91	5	408	81.60
FEMALES.										
Domestics, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	466	55.75
Dress-makers, . . .	.	.	.	.	3	77	25.66	11	338	30.72
Housekeepers, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	179	8888	49.61
Ladies, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	212	70.66
Milliners, . . .	.	.	.	.	3	111	37.00	2	53	26.50
Nurses, . . .	.	.	.	.	1	61	61.00	2	106	53.00
Operatives, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27	779	21.44
Seamstresses, . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	464	44.88
Shoe-binders, . . .	.	.	.	.	2	59	29.50	3	115	38.33
Straw-braiders, . . .	.	.	.	.	2	48	24.12	4	140	35.50
Tailoresses, . . .	.	.	.	.	7	288	41.23	16	654	40.87
Washerwoman, . . .	.	.	.	.	1	80	80.00	.	.	.
Total, . . .	.	.	.	.	19	724	38.36	264	12,215	46.32

RECAPITULATION.

OCCUPATIONS.	1842.	1843.	1844.			1845.		
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Average age.
Professional men, . . .	54	75	82	3,549	43.28	62	2,724	43.93
Merchants, . . .	78	93	75	4,056	54.08	90	4,403	48.92
Agriculturists, . . .	660	706	663	42,447	64.02	645	39,869	61.81
Public Officers, . . .	41	29	25	1,017	40.68	35	1,544	44.11
Mechanics, . . .	452	484	452	20,629	45.63	477	22,398	46.96
Laborers, . . .	195	179	182	9,316	51.18	219	10,690	48.81
Seamen, . . .	192	207	162	6,500	40.12	145	6,206	42.80
Paupers, . . .	15	32	35	2,482	70.91	5	408	81.60
Females, . . .	.	.	19	729	38.36	264	12,215	46.32
Total and averages, .	1687	1805	1695	90,725	53.54	1942	100,457	51.72

TABLE V. FACTS ILLUSTRATING THE INFLUENCE OF DOMESTIC
CONDITION ON LONGEVITY,

*Showing, for each County, the number and aggregate age of all in the
Returns over 20 years old, whose condition is specified.*

COUNTIES.	MALES.						FEMALES.					
	UNMARRIED.		MARRIED.		WIDOWERS.		UNMARRIED.		MARRIED.		WIDOWS.	
	Number.	Aggregate age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Number.	Aggregate age.	Number.	Aggregate age.
Berkshire, .	12	469	63	3198	8	597	29	850	62	2572	30	2224
Franklin, .	10	248	56	2781	10	761	22	743	62	2640	20	1546
Hampshire, .	27	829	42	2164	11	766	16	634	67	2939	33	2515
Hampden, .	22	658	72	3906	6	425	17	560	62	2771	30	2107
Worcester, .	63	2210	177	9577	33	2388	70	3001	107	8791	118	8168
Middlesex, .	57	1939	171	8899	22	1352	131	10,285	179	7565	69	6690
Essex, .	47	1697	159	7810	23	1714	63	2945	153	6929	142	10,342
Norfolk, .	26	890	63	3358	12	884	14	730	59	2616	35	2515
Plymouth, .	21	1014	63	3770	14	1099	24	1335	68	3428	29	2172
Bristol, .	32	1378	84	4670	15	1119	27	1302	84	3403	50	3550
Barnstable, .	17	491	49	2512	7	484	11	461	45	1877	31	2270
Dukes & Nant.	10	326	17	968	1	82	9	546	15	803	19	1325
Total, .	344	12,149	1016	53,613	162	11,671	424	23,392	963	46,334	606	45,384
Average age, .		35.29		52.76		72.04		55.16		48.11		74.88

A P P E N D I X .

LETTER TO THE SECRETARY

FROM

LEMUEL SHATTUCK, ESQ.

Boston, December 12, 1845.

HON. JOHN G. PALFREY,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Sir:—Agreeably to your request, and as far as other special engagements would permit, I have examined the returns made under the Registry Law of this State, and the tables abstracted from them, and proceed to give you the results of this examination. I had the honor, on the 13th December, 1843, to address a letter to John A. Bolles, Esq., your predecessor in office, in which I alluded to the defects of the then existing laws on the subject, and the almost entire neglect of registration by all classes of people. I pointed out some of the objects to be gained by a new and more efficient system; and at the close of the letter submitted a plan, accompanied by forms and instructions, for carrying such a system into successful operation. This communication was published in the Second Annual Registration Report. Since that time, a new act on the subject has been passed, and my plan, in relation to the Registry Books for the towns, has been generally carried into operation. With a slight modification of the entries in the Register for marriages, which the Registrar may easily make, these books are all that may be desired for the most efficient system. Without a proper and uniform plan for making the original records, no general results can be deduced from the facts they contain, which would be of much value. Here then one of the first and most important objects in this matter has been attained. In the notes accompanying the returns this year, some town clerks allude to the additional labor which these forms require, but generally the plan is regarded with increasing favor, and a firmer conviction of its importance; and should proper blanks be used, and a suitable compensation be allowed, the labor would be comparatively trifling, and the system would soon become very popular.

The law is, however, very imperfect in the means it proposes for obtaining the facts to be recorded; and for this reason it has failed to be useful in many towns.

This is an important part of its operations. I stated, in my letter of 1843, above alluded to, that "the experience of every government, where systems of registration have been adopted, shows that it must be made the special duty of some individuals to collect the facts, and furnish them to the proper officer. To leave this to the voluntary action of any one in the community, fails of producing those full and accurate returns, which are essential to render the record valuable. It is also bad policy to exact a fee of the connexions or friends of those whose births or deaths are recorded, as was once the provision of our statutes. So far as they are concerned the record should be free. But to the proper officers and persons concerned, rewards should be offered for the performance of duty, and penalties imposed for the neglect of it. In this way it will be made their interest, as well as their duty, to perform what the law may require."

The justice of these views is confirmed by experience, and the uniform testimony of the town clerks in the notes accompanying their returns. Should attempts be made to amend the provisions of the present law, it is important that proper ones should be passed to supply their place. It is believed that such a bill might be drawn, as would entirely remove any objections which may exist in the minds of clergymen and others, against any part of the present act; and, while it would be simple in its operations, would accomplish all the objects to be desired, especially if carried into effect with competent attention and ability.

Without further remark, I proceed to notice some results, obtained from the returns under our Registry System. Before doing so, however, I wish to notice a few facts relating to the condition of the population.

In 1844, Edwin Chadwick, Esq., author of the able Report on the Sanatory Condition of England, published a work on the "Pressure and Progress of the Causes of Mortality among different Classes of the Community," in which he alludes to America as follows:—

"In America, little attention and labor appear to have been bestowed in any of the rural districts on general land drainage. Yet nature inflicts terrible punishment for the neglect of the appointed and visible warnings. The cleansing and the general sanatory condition of the American towns appear to be lower than in England or Scotland, whilst the heat there at times is greater and decomposition more active; pestilence, in the shape of yellow fever, ague, and influenza, is there more rife; the deaths in proportion to the population more numerous, and the average age of death (so far as there is information) amongst the resident population much lower.

	Years.	Months.
The average age of the whole of the living population in America,		
so far as can be deduced from the returns at the periods given in		
the census, is only	22	2

"Notwithstanding the earlier marriages, and the extent of emigration, and the general increase of the population, the whole circumstances appear to me to prove this to be the case of a population depressed to this low age, chiefly by the greater proportionate pressure of the causes of disease and premature mortality. The proportionate numbers at each interval of age, in every 10,000 of the two populations, are as follows:—

			<i>United States of America.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Under 5 years			1744	1324
5 and under 10			1417	1197
10	"	15	1210	1089
15	"	20	1091	997
20	"	30	1816	1780
30	"	40	1160	1239
40	"	50	732	959
50	"	60	436	645
60	"	70	245	440
70	"	80	113	216
80	"	90	32	59
90 and upwards			4	5
			<hr/> 10,000	<hr/> 10,000

Average age of all the living 22 years 2 months 26 years 7 months.

"Here it may be observed, that whilst in England there are 5025 persons between 15 and 50, who have 3610 children or persons under 15; in America there are 4789 persons living between 15 and 50 years of age, who have 4371 children dependent upon them. In England there are in every ten thousand persons 1365 who have obtained above 50 years' experience; in America there are only 830.

"The moral consequences of the predominance of the young and passionate in the American community, are attested by observers to be such as have already been described in the General Sanatory Report as characteristic of those crowded, filthy, and badly administered districts in England, where the average duration of life is short, the proportion of the very young great, and the adult generation transient.

"The difference does not arise solely from the greater proportion of children arising from a greater increase of population, though that is to some extent consistent with what has been proved to be the effect of a severe general mortality; the effects of the common cause of depression is observable at each interval of age; the adult population in America is younger than in England, and if the causes of early death were to remain the same, it may be confidently predicted that the American population would remain young for centuries.

	<i>Years.</i>	<i>Months.</i>
The average age of all alive above 15 in America is	33	6
The average age of all alive above 15 years in England and Wales is	37	5
The average age of all above 20 years in America is	37	7
In the whole of England the average of all above 20 years is	41	1 "

These are important statements; and, coming from a man so eminent for the ability and knowledge he has displayed on this subject, deserve serious consideration. The prevailing opinion among us is, that "no people in the world are more healthy than Americans." But if the above statements are true, this prevailing opinion is incorrect. Let us examine the subject by such aids as we have at command, to ascertain how far they are applicable, especially to the people of Massachusetts. We will first take a view of the facts obtained by the National Census of 1830 and 1840; and afterwards of those obtained under the Registry

Law, concerning births, marriages, and deaths. The census of 1840 contained many errors, but when compared with that of 1830, the results correspond so well that it may be taken as a near approximation to the truth. It is much to be desired, that measures should be devised, when the next State census shall be taken, to have it more full and accurate than any hitherto taken; and to obtain other particulars concerning our population, which are important to be known.

In presenting facts of this kind, to give the mere numbers without the proportions, affords but an imperfect view of the subject. Such a collection of facts may be likened to the bones of our bodily system without the accompaniments which give them vitality. I have, therefore, in most of the tables in this communication, calculated these proportions,—a work which has been attended with considerable labor. This is a mode by which even statistics can be made both interesting and useful.

The following is a statement of the ages of the white population of Massachusetts, according to the National Censuses of 1830 and 1840, and the proportion in every 10,000, living at each specified age.

(a)

AGE.	Number of Persons.		In every 10,000, there were in	
	1830.	1840.	1830.	1840.
Under 5	80,131	92,626	1,329	1,270
5 to 10	70,558	80,411	1,170	1,103
10 to 15	67,971	74,803	1,127	1,026
15 to 20	67,331	77,429	1,117	1,063
20 to 30	118,908	150,535	1,972	2,065
30 to 40	73,601	101,607	1,221	1,394
40 to 50	50,342	63,270	835	868
50 to 60	33,482	41,954	555	575
60 to 70	23,203	26,077	385	358
70 to 80	12,693	14,860	210	203
80 to 90	4,276	4,869	71	67
90 to 100	507	570	8	8
Over 100	3	19	-	-
Total,	603,006	729,030	10,000	10,000

This table is read thus. There were in Massachusetts, under 5 years of age, 80,131 persons, in 1830; and 92,626 persons in 1840;—and to every 10,000, of all ages, there were 1329 under 5, in 1830; and 1270 under 5, in 1840. The other ages are read in the same way. The proportion may be read as so much *per cent.* in this and many other tables in this communication, by separating the two right hand figures by a decimal point, when they will be read 13.29 and 12.70.

From this statement, it appears that the proportion under 15 years of age was 2.27 per cent. more in 1830 than in 1840; from 15 to 60 it was 2.65 per cent. less; and over 60, it was .11 more. In the census of 1840 there was an error of about 8000 in Boston, as I shall show in the report of the census of that city this year. This error was made in regard to the class from 15 to 60; and, taken in connection with the increased immigration to our cities, of the same class, during this period, will account for the difference in the proportions.

There are various modes suggested of comparing the energies and prosperity of one people with another. It has been said, with much truth, that "a country is placed in the most favorable circumstances for advancement, when it has the largest proportionate numbers of its inhabitants of an age suited to active employments." That age, according to the above extract from Mr. Chadwick's work, is between 15 and 50. It appears to me, however, that, in New England at least, 15 to 60 would be a better division; for most persons here between 15 and 60 are able to labor. I propose, therefore, to adopt the following standard of comparison. Those under 15 years of age to be called the *Dependent Class*, because they are dependent on those older for support; those from 15 to 60 to be called the *Productive Class*, because they are the only class who enjoy the full vigor of life, and are capable of discharging all its manifold duties; and those over 60, the *Aged Class*. The first and third classes combined may be called the *Burdensome Class*, and the other the *Productive Class*. The word *productive* is used here as applied to labor, in contradistinction from idleness or inability. One class are producers and the other consumers.

The educational age, as fixed by the laws of Massachusetts, is 4 to 16. It seems to me, however, that this specific classification is injudicious, and that 5 to 15 would be a better division. One object in specifying any age, is to have a basis by which to proportion the public school money to the several towns. It is probable, however, that it would make little or no difference in the result, whether this sum were proportioned to the children between 4 and 16, or between 5 and 15. The latter are universally adopted by nations as important points in the divisions of the population, and in the statistics of the dead; and there are many reasons why the educational age should be within these points. It would be less labor to make the enumeration; and, from examinations which have been made, it appears that the ages of children attending school, more nearly correspond to them. Comparisons could be more readily made with the ordinary divisions of the population. I agree in opinion with a recent eminent writer in thinking, in its application to schools, that "hereafter 15 will be the age at which, in any census, it will be considered that, in the mass of the community, occupation begins and education ends."

I will now apply the above test to the population of each county, the whole State, and some other places; and calculate the proportions of the whole population living in each class. (Table b, next page.)

From this statement it appears that, while the whole United States had 52.35 per cent. of the population of the productive class, between 15 and 60, Massachusetts had 59.65 per cent. and England 56.70; showing this State to be better situated, in this respect, than either. In the aged class it appears, however, that England had 7.20 per cent. while this State had but 6.74—a result in favor of the longevity of that country. Some counties compare better than others or the whole State. Boston has 64.65 per cent.—the greatest proportion of the productive class; and only 2.93 per cent.—the least of the aged.

The condition of a population is very much affected by emigration and immigration. The character of the emigrants varies, however, very much in different places. To illustrate this point we will take the city of Lowell and the State of Illinois. In one the productive class, and in the other the dependent class, pre-

dominates. Few of the productive class in either case were natives. By the census of 1840, it appears that to every 10,000 persons there were

	Under 15	15 to 60	Over 60.
In Lowell,	2500	7368	132
In Illinois,	4762	5045	193

That is, while Lowell had 2500 persons dependent upon every 7365 for support, Illinois had 4762 persons dependent on 5045 for support; showing, from the ages alone, that the productive energies of the one are more than double those of the other. If the other circumstances of the population were taken into consideration, such as the greater amount of sickness and mortality, necessarily suffered in one more than in the other, the difference would appear still more striking. Lowell is a remarkable instance; and perhaps there cannot be found, anywhere, 25,000 persons in one place, in which the productive class comprises 73.68 per cent. and the burdensome class only 26.32 per cent.,—a little more than one quarter. In neither place are to be found many of the aged class, most of the immigrants being of the other classes, and who had not lived long enough there to pass out of them. Combining the dependent and the aged classes, as proposed, the following proportions are obtained. (Table c, next page.)

There is another question: What proportion of our people survive different ages, as compared with others in other places? This is a subject of interest, though when taken alone it should not be considered as a sure basis of a comparison of longevity. From the facts already given, table *d* is compiled.

It appears from this table, that in Massachusetts 63.74 per cent. of the population in 1830 had survived the age of 15, and 66.01 in 1840. In the United States 55.01 in 1830, and 56.29 in 1840, and in England 63.90, had survived the

(b)

IN	Whole Population,	Number of Persons.			To every 100 persons, there were		
		Under 15.	15 to 60.	Over 60.	Un. 15.	15 to 60	Over 60
Massachus. 1830,	603,006	218,660	343,664	40,682	36.26	57.00	6.74
“ 1840,	729,030	247,840	434,795	46,395	33.99	59.65	6.36
Boston, - - -	83,012	26,904	53,674	2,434	32.42	64.65	2.93
Essex Co. - - -	94,482	33,039	54,494	6,949	34.97	57.68	7.35
Middlesex, - - -	106,118	34,383	65,982	5,753	32.40	62.18	5.42
Worcester, - - -	94,740	32,906	54,892	6,942	34.73	57.94	7.33
Hampden, - - -	37,034	12,363	22,427	2,244	33.38	60.56	6.06
Hampshire, - - -	30,696	10,763	17,672	2,261	35.06	57.58	7.36
Franklin, - - -	28,724	10,466	15,972	2,286	36.44	55.60	7.96
Berkshire, - - -	40,467	14,411	23,376	2,680	35.61	57.77	6.62
Norfolk, - - -	52,980	18,162	31,327	3,491	34.28	59.13	6.59
Plymouth, - - -	47,020	16,574	26,482	3,964	35.25	56.32	8.43
Barnstable, - - -	32,111	12,378	17,472	2,261	38.55	54.41	7.04
Bristol, - - -	58,934	20,712	34,202	4,020	35.14	58.04	6.82
Dukes, - - -	3,938	1,335	2,244	359	33.90	56.98	9.12
Nantucket, - - -	8,433	2,572	5,210	651	30.50	61.78	7.72
U. States, 1830,	10,526,058	4,737,335	5,368,275	420,448	44.99	51.01	4.00
“ 1840,	14,189,108	6,201,219	7,427,579	560,310	43.71	52.35	3.94
England, 1841, -	15,858,075	5,723,782	8,991,903	1,142,390	36.10	56.70	7.20
Sweden, 1835, -	3,025,439	1,065,444	1,722,332	237,663	35.22	56.93	7.85

same age. In Massachusetts, 6.74 in 1830, and 6.36 in 1840; in the United States, 4.00 in 1830, and 3.94 in 1840; and in England, 7.20 had survived the age of 60. These deductions show that a less proportion of the population live through the productive age to be classed with the aged, and less experience and maturity of mind is preserved, in the United States, and even in Massachusetts, than in England or Sweden. Though this State compares better with England than the whole Union, yet even here is found some confirmation of Mr. Chadwick's statements, so far as they apply to the existing population.

The following statement will illustrate the average age of the population. In the United States it applies only to the whites.

	Years.	Persons.	Average age.
In the United States,	1840	14,189,108	22.71
Massachusetts,	1830	603,006	25.34
"	1840	729,030	25.89
England,	1841	15,858,075	26.59

(c)

In	Year.	Proportion, per cent., of the	
		Productive Class.	Burdensome Class.
Massachusetts, - -	1830	57.00	43.00
" - -	1840	59.65	40.35
Lowell, - - - -	1840	73.68	26.32
Illinois, - - - -	1840	50.45	49.55
United States, - -	1830	51.01	48.99
" - -	1840	52.35	47.65
England, - - - -	1841	56.70	43.30
Sweden, - - - -	1835	56.93	43.07

(d)

Age surviving.		Number persons per cent., surviving, were in				
		Massachusetts.		United States.		England.
		1830.	1840.	1830.	1840.	1841.
At Birth,		100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
5 years,		86.71	87.30	82.00	82.56	86.76
10 "		75.01	76.27	67.44	68.39	74.79
15 "		63.74	66.01	55.01	56.29	63.90
20 "		54.57	55.38	43.90	45.38	53.93
30 "		32.85	34.73	26.09	27.22	36.13
40 "		20.64	20.79	15.18	15.62	23.24
50 "		12.29	12.11	8.30	8.30	13.65
60 "		6.74	6.36	4.00	3.94	7.20
70 "		2.89	2.78	1.47	1.49	2.80
80 "		.79	.75	.37	.38	.64
90 "		.08	.08	.06	.04	.05

This subject is an important one, and might be profitably examined more in detail; but I leave it for the present to advert to the facts obtained under the Registry Law of this State.

The number of births, marriages and deaths, returned under the Registry Law of Massachusetts, in all the counties but Suffolk, in 1845, and the three preceding years, not including the still born, were—

	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Births,	8,470	8,659	14,646	15,564
Marriages,	4,974	5,023	4,275	4,341
Deaths,	7,491	8,305	8,250	8,642

An examination of the Abstract of each town, on pages 3 to 11 inclusive, and the notes appended to that abstract, shows that these returns do not include all that have occurred. Some towns have omitted to make any returns, and others are so imperfect, that a comparison between these numbers and the population would present a fallacious result. I stated, in my communication to Mr. Bolles, already referred to, that the population then was "about 750,000, and in this number it may be estimated that 1 in 30, or about 25,000 births; 1 in 125, or 6,000 marriages; and 1 in 60, or 12,500 deaths, take place in the whole State every year. This is a mere estimate, and may be erroneous, though it is supposed to be not far from the truth." From a comparison of some of the returns since that time, I am inclined to think the proportional number of births and marriages too small; and the deaths also, unless Boston be excluded. Taking the rural districts alone, it would be a fair estimate, but including the cities, it would perhaps be too low an estimate of the number of deaths. The number of births returned has increased each year, and in 1845 amounted to nearly double those of 1842. This is an encouraging fact, and shows the increasing attention of the people to Registration. The number of marriages and deaths returned has not varied materially in the four years.

The following table (e) is compiled from the latest information in my possession, showing the proportions which the births, marriages and deaths, bear to the population in various European states.

(e)

STATES.	Period of Observation.	Annual number of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, to 100 persons living, or per cent.			Number of persons living to one annual Marriage, Birth, and Death.		
		Marriages. per cent.	Births. per cent.	Deaths. per cent.	Marriages. One in	Births. One in	Deaths. One in
England, -	1839-1842	.770	3.200	2.209	130	31	45
France, -	1840-1842	.825	2.837	2.397	121	35	42
Austria, -	1839-1841	.807	3.874	2.995	124	26	33
Prussia, -	1839-1841	.887	3.767	2.658	113	27	38
Russia, -	1842	1.013	4.284	3.590	99	23	28

This interesting statement shows that in England, a less proportion of marriages and deaths takes place than in either of the states mentioned. France exceeds her in births. In Russia, the proportion of each is very large, exceeding

by nearly 25 per cent. those of England. It has been said, that in warm countries marriages take place earlier, and births and deaths are more numerous; but the Russian returns do not seem to confirm its truth. It would be interesting, if we had the means of making a similar statement respecting each State in our confederacy.

MARRIAGES.—The age of the parties at marriage is an important element to be recorded. Some have objected to give it from a desire for “fictitious youth,” from false ideas of delicacy, or a misapprehension of its importance; and in other cases it has been omitted through the carelessness of those whose duty it was to make the records. The consequence has been, that in a portion only of the returns has the age been stated. Better results, it is hoped, will be produced in future. Abstracts of these returns are presented in five tables, pages 38 to 40, constructed in such a manner as to present the ages of the parties in a very interesting view. It appears that 9,682 persons were married and returned the last year, of whom the ages of 6,852 are stated—3,422 males and 3,430 females; and 2,830 are not stated—1,419 males and 1,411 females. The condition of the parties was as follows:—

Marriages in which both parties were married for the first time,	3,490
“ the man was married for the first time and the woman not,	113
“ the woman was married for the first time and the man not,	490
“ both parties had been married before,	194
“ the condition of the parties was not stated,	554
Total,	4,841

G. R. Porter, Esq., an eminent English statistician, in a recent work quoted in the American Almanac for 1846, says “the rapid growth of the population of the United States is not attributable to the great duration of life, but arises from the number and fruitfulness of marriages, aided in a considerable degree by emigration.” It is important to know whether this be true or false. Knowing the *age at marriage*, and instituting a comparison with other countries, are the means of arriving at the truth. The Belgian returns, and the report of the last census of Ireland, afford the means of doing it in relation to those countries. Those of England do not. It is, however, proposed to alter the Registration law there, so as to require it. The last report of the Registrar General has the following sensible remarks on this subject: “It is not a little remarkable, that although the increase of population and the influence of early and late marriages on the welfare of nations, have for the whole of the present century occupied public attention, and been made the basis of theories which have guided or biased legislation, no provision has yet been made for determining the simplest fundamental facts—the foundation of all reasoning on the subject—such as the ages at marriage, the ages of mothers, of children, the numbers of married and single persons at the several periods of life. Upon many of these points the greatest ignorance prevails, writers on population depending on rough approximations, derived from scanty, imperfect, and often erroneous data, because the censuses and registers have not yet been taken and abstracted upon a comprehensive and well-considered plan.”

These are the views of those who proposed to have inserted in the Massachusetts Register the age of the parties at marriage; and if further reasons were

necessary to show its importance, they will appear from the facts already obtained, some of which are presented in this report.

The following table, (*f*) containing those marriages only, where both parties were married for the first time, and whose ages are stated, is compiled from the Massachusetts returns of 1845, and the Belgian returns of 1841.

(*f*)

AGE.	Number of persons married in				To 10,000 married, there were in			
	Massachusetts.		Belgium.		Massachusetts.		Belgium.	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
Under 20,	53	690	757	2685	198	2583	312	1105
20 to 25,	1308	1422	4530	6966	4897	5324	1864	2867
25 to 30,	952	446	9420	8067	3564	1670	3877	3320
30 to 35,	247	79	5497	3841	925	296	2262	1581
35 to 40,	81	17	2488	1719	303	64	1024	707
40 to 45,	17	14	1000	653	64	52	412	269
45 to 50,	8	2	340	225	30	7	140	93
50 to 55,	5	1	137	76	19	4	56	31
55 to 60,	.	.	56	27	.	.	23	11
Over 60,	.	.	72	38	.	.	30	16
	2671	2671	24,297	24,297	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

Average age, 25.84 22.69 29.47 27.43

The Belgian tables give the marriages "under 21." Our tables give them "under 20," which will make a slight difference in the proportion at that and the subsequent age, but in no other. It appears from this table, that while in Massachusetts, to every 10,000 of all ages, 4,897 males and 5,324 females are married between the ages of 20 and 25; in Belgium only 1,864 males and 2,867 females out of the same number, are married at those ages. The average age in Massachusetts of the males was 25.84 and the females, 22.69, while in Belgium the males averaged 29.47 and the females 27.43. This average age shows a difference of 3.63 years in the males, and 4.74 in the females. This is the result of the marriages in which both parties were married for the first time. I will next present a view of all the marriages, whatever the condition of the parties. And in the table (*g*) is given the ages of 506,652 males, 522,205 females, when married, taken from the last census of Ireland.

This table shows that in Massachusetts 40.59 per cent. of the males were between the ages of 20 and 25 at marriage, while in Belgium the proportion was only 15.65 per cent. The proportions at the other ages differ very materially. Those married under and over 25 will appear by the comparison exhibited in table (*h*), next page.

These remarkable results show that the proportion of males married under 25 was even greater in Massachusetts than in Ireland, and the proportion of females was nearly as large; and both were more than double those of Belgium.

The number of marriages in 1842 and 1843, is given in the reports, without

specifying the month in which they took place. In 1844 and 1845, they occurred in the different months as represented in table (i,) next page.

This statement shows that the seasons have considerable influence on the number of marriages, varying from 461 to 1,379 in 1844, and from 544 to 1,305 in 1845. The average number each month was 347 in 1844, and 401 in 1845. The month in which the smallest number occurred was July, and that in which

(g)

AGE.	Number of persons married, of all conditions, in					
	Massachusetts.		Belgium.		Ireland, 1830—1840.	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females.
Under 20,	56	738	774	2831	44,267	153,312
20 to 25,	1389	1587	4677	7421	165,664	209,758
25 to 30,	1093	602	10,067	9082	145,531	98,465
30 to 35,	371	201	6527	4928	76,349	34,812
35 to 40,	175	117	3636	2791	36,415	14,752
40 to 45,	115	92	2037	1477	17,525	6,122
45 to 50,	85	43	934	753	10,074	2,942
50 to 55,	48	23	512	357	5,396	1,183
55 to 60,	31	18	310	126	5,431	859
Over 60,	59	9	402	110	.	.
	3422	3430	29,876	29,876	506,652	522,205

AGE.	To 10,000 married, of all conditions, there were					
Under 20,	164	2152	259	948	873	2936
20 to 25,	4059	4627	1565	2484	3270	4017
25 to 30,	3194	1755	3370	3040	2872	1886
30 to 35,	1084	586	2185	1650	1507	667
35 to 40,	511	341	1217	934	719	282
40 to 45,	336	268	682	494	346	117
45 to 50,	248	125	313	252	199	56
50 to 55,	140	67	171	119	107	23
55 to 60,	91	53	104	42	107	16
Over 60,	173	26	134	37	.	.
	10,000	10,000	10,00	10,000	10,000	10,000

(h)

IN	Males.		Females.	
	Under 25	Over 25.	Under 25.	Over 25.
Massachusetts, - -	42.23	57.77	67.79	32.21
Ireland, - - - -	41.43	58.57	69.53	30.47
Belgium, - - - -	18.24	81.76	34.32	65.68

the largest number occurred, November,—the month of the annual return of the New England festival, Thanksgiving. Many families meet together on that day to congratulate the newly formed marriage connexions.

BIRTHS.—The number only of the births is given in the Reports of 1842 and 1843, without distinction of sex, or the months in which they took place. In 1844 and 1845, the sex and time of birth are specified. It appears that

	<i>In 1844.</i>	<i>In 1845.</i>
The whole number of births returned, were	14,646	15,564
Of which the male births were	7,344	7,793
“ the female births were	6,991	7,594
“ the births in which the sex is not stated, were	311	177
Of those in which the sex was known, the females were to		
100 males,	95.08	97.44
“ “ “ the males to 100 females,	105.04	102.62
“ “ “ the males to 100 both sexes,	51.23	50.65
“ “ “ the females to 100 both sexes,	48.77	49.35

This shows that there are more males than females born; and the proportions are nearly the same as occur in other parts of the world. The months of the year in which they took place, appear in table (j,) next page.

These observations are not sufficiently extensive to form any very correct opinion on the subject; but, so far as they go, they do not show that the seasons have any perceptible influence on the number of births, as is stated to be the fact in some parts of the world. The average number each month was 1,209 in 1844, and 1,280 in 1845.

In 1844 there was 1 case of twin births to	123 cases of birth.
“ 1845 “ 1 “ “ to	129 “
“ 1844 “ 1 “ triplets to	7261 “
“ 1845 “ 1 “ “ to	15,444 “
“ 1844 “ 1 “ quadruplets to	15,523 “
“ 1845 “ no case of “	“

(i)

MONTH.	Number of Marriages in		To 10,000 Marriages, there were in	
	1844.	1845.	1844.	1845.
January, - -	337	414	809	859
February, - -	264	270	633	560
March, - - -	264	262	633	544
April, - - -	429	474	1029	983
May, - - -	429	465	1029	965
June, - - -	325	336	780	697
July, - - -	192	263	461	546
August, - -	229	286	549	593
September, -	284	419	681	869
October, - -	442	538	1060	1116
November, -	575	629	1379	1305
December, -	399	464	957	963
Specified, - -	4169	4820	10,000	10,000
Not specified, -	106	21		
Total, - -	4275	4841		

It would be interesting and important to know the average number of children born to each marriage in Massachusetts. Our returns are, however, not sufficiently full to allow us to make even a safe comparison as to the proportion the births bear to the marriages, deaths or population. I venture the opinion that the number of births to a marriage here, is greater than in England; but that the number here is not as great now as it was 30 or 40 years ago.

"The births registered in England are in proportion to the population one seventh part more numerous than in France, and one seventh part less than in Prussia. To 3,525 inhabitants 100 births are annually registered in France, 113 in England, 133 in Prussia, 136 in Austria, 151 in Russia. The small number of births in France is not accounted for by any difference in the proportion of the persons married, who are, in fact, more numerous in France than in any other country from which I have been able to procure returns. It appears that 100 French wives had 14 children, 100 Prussian wives 21 children yearly; or, in other terms, 717 wives bore annually 100 children in France, 152 children in Prussia. If the births are divided by the annual marriages that took place seven years before, there were 3.33 births (in wedlock) to a marriage in France—4.05 to a marriage in Prussia, and 4.34 to a marriage in Austria; 4.26 to a marriage in England, and if a correction be made for first marriages, 4.79 to every *two* persons married. The total annual births in England, divided by the persons married seven years before, give on an average 5.12 children to every two persons married; and as many illegitimate children are the offspring of married persons before, during or after marriage, the number of children to every two persons married in England must be between 4.79 and 5.12, or little short of *five*, about three of which attain the age of marriage to replace the two parents and those who have no offspring; the surplus swelling the number of the existing inhabitants of the island, or flowing in of emigration."

(j)

MONTH.	Number of Births in		In 10,000 Births, there were in	
	1844.	1845.	1844.	1845.
January, - -	1170	1335	806	869
February, - -	1210	1295	834	843
March, - - -	1239	1512	854	984
April, - - -	1230	1452	847	945
May, - - -	1144	1013	788	659
June, - - -	1134	1063	781	692
July, - - -	1164	1235	802	804
August, - -	1350	1350	930	878
September, -	1282	1314	883	855
October, - -	1206	1324	831	661
November, -	1195	1235	823	804
December, -	1192	1238	821	806
Specified, - -	14,516	15,366	10,000	10,000
Not Specified,	130	198		
Total, - -	14,646	15,564		

DEATHS.—It has been stated that the number of deaths returned was 7,642, not including the still born, and 8,715 including them. They occurred in the several counties as stated in the subjoined table. (*k*) We have arranged the counties so as to admit of being easily grouped together; the 4 western in one division, the 4 middle in another, and the 5 southern in another, if desired.

(*k*)

COUNTIES.	Population, 1840.	Deaths.			
		Male.	Female.	Not Specified.	Total.
Berkshire, - -	41,745	218	252	18	488
Franklin, - - -	28,812	143	182	6	331
Hampshire, - -	30,897	168	210	17	395
Hampden, - - -	37,366	239	254	16	509
Worcester, - -	95,313	696	824	7	1527
Middlesex, - -	106,611	734	750	22	1506
Essex, - - -	94,987	705	772	27	1504
Norfolk, - - -	53,140	298	333	26	657
Plymouth, - -	47,373	228	243	13	484
Bristol, - - -	60,165	336	369	14	719
Barnstable, - -	32,548	211	184	13	408
Dukes, - - -	3,958	28	23	2	53
Nantucket, - -	9,012	64	70	.	134
	641,927	4068	4466	181	8715

The returns fall so far short of the actual number, that a comparison of the proportion they bear to the population would be fallacious. Accuracy in this respect can be attained only after the Registry Law shall have been amended and the records and returns perfected. I am inclined to the opinion, from an examination of several of the returns last year, which appear most correct, that if the whole number of deaths in the State had been stated, it would not have amounted to more than 1 in 57 of the living. This proportion may, however, be found to be incorrect by full and authentic data.

An interesting view of the proportion of deaths in the two sexes may be given, embracing the abstracts for the four years. (*l*)

(*l*)

YEAR.	Deaths.				Of those whose sex was known, there were		
	Whole Number.	Male.	Female.	Not stated.	To 100 Deaths of both sexes.		Females to 100 Males.
					Males.	Females.	
1842	7496	3329	3693	474	47.41	52.59	110.93
1843	8305	3684	4261	350	46.37	53.65	115.66
1844	8338	3712	4173	453	47.08	52.92	112.41
1845	8715	4068	4466	181	47.67	52.33	109.78

It has already been shown that more males than females are born. From the above statement it appears that fewer males than females die. A comparison can be instituted between them only in the last two years, since in the first two Reports they are not both specified.

(m)

In	To every 10,000 males there were females		Showing a difference of
	Born.	Died.	
1844	9508	11,241	1733
1845	9744	10,978	1234

It may be asked, what becomes of this difference? The answer is principally found in the greater number of males than females, which the State furnishes to people other parts of the Union, and to traverse the world. From the census of New York city, just published, it appears that 16,086 of its inhabitants were born in New England; and throughout all the Western States, New England men are found. It would be an exceedingly interesting inquiry, how many emigrants have been furnished each year by Massachusetts. And if a good system of Registration had been in operation, we should have been able to show it. We should have been able to show how many have gone hence to spread the wholesome influence of the land of their birth in other States and other regions. If every 10,000 births furnish 1,250 emigrants, the 25,000 births which have been estimated to take place in the State annually, would furnish over 3,000 to spend the remainder of their lives in other lands than that of their nativity.

The influence of the seasons over the number of deaths is universally acknowledged to be great; but it varies according to place, age, disease, and other circumstances. It is highly important to know how far all these influences effect the health of the people. The following facts (table (n,) next page) compiled from the returns afford a general illustration of the matter.

This table shows a great difference in the mortality of the different months of the year. It will be perceived that the smallest number of deaths generally occurs in May and June, and the greatest number in August and September, varying this year, in those months, from 582 in every 10,000 to 1092. A particular examination of the other months will be of interest. By dividing the year into quarters, the following proportion per cent. will appear.

	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
<i>Winter</i> —Jan. Feb. March, . . .	26.63	22.16	23.82	24.70
<i>Spring</i> —April, May, June, . . .	22.81	25.03	21.21	20.41
<i>Summer</i> —July, Aug. Sept. . . .	25.14	29.23	28.80	29.86
<i>Autumn</i> —Oct. Nov. Dec.	25.42	23.53	26.17	25.03

The ages at death make one of the most important elements in vital statistics. Combined with the ages of the living, they give us the means of measuring the value of life, and estimating the comparative health enjoyed by persons in different places and under different circumstances. In proportion as the average shall be high or low, will a people of similar ages of the living be healthy or un-

healthy. In the first place, I will present for each county the number returned at each age specified for the year 1845. (o) The counties are so arranged that those who choose may make the divisions of the State, as before suggested. Whether any such divisions may hereafter be adopted, will depend on the facts elicited by future investigation.

(n)

MONTH.	Number of Deaths.				In every 10,000 Deaths, there were in			
	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
January, .	608	563	641	682	820	687	795	789
February, .	627	608	635	690	845	742	787	798
March, .	740	645	645	763	998	787	800	883
April, .	711	635	577	697	959	775	715	807
May, .	495	753	592	563	667	919	734	651
June, .	486	663	542	504	655	809	672	583
July, .	487	654	584	706	657	798	724	817
August, .	620	844	821	928	836	1030	1018	1074
September, .	757	901	918	946	1021	1100	1138	1095
October, .	806	726	757	838	1087	886	939	970
November, .	527	627	639	651	711	765	792	753
December, .	552	575	715	674	744	702	886	780
Specified, .	7416	8194	8066	8642	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Not specified, .	132	147	184	.	.	.	.	.
Total, .	7548	8341	8250	8642	.	.	.	.
Average, .	618	682	672	720	833	833	833	833

(o)

AGE.	Berkshire.	Franklin.	Hampshire.	Hampden.	Worcester.	Middlesex.	Essex.	Norfolk.	Plymouth.	Bristol.	Barnstable.	Dukes and Nantucket.	Total.
Under 1,	68	33	59	78	275	308	237	105	62	141	66	46	1478
1 to 2,	34	11	22	48	119	138	132	53	38	58	31	13	697
2 to 5,	47	25	32	39	142	135	139	43	48	50	30	9	739
5 to 10,	18	9	10	20	55	61	70	23	25	37	19	7	354
10 to 20,	36	23	20	48	109	84	112	49	35	40	25	11	592
20 to 30,	70	51	68	64	168	175	143	71	42	64	67	12	995
30 to 40,	41	31	33	38	134	142	110	53	31	51	28	12	704
40 to 50,	26	25	27	39	80	91	95	29	20	38	28	10	508
50 to 60,	23	27	29	26	104	74	79	37	25	41	23	11	500
60 to 70,	30	26	21	29	92	84	88	47	44	42	18	20	541
70 to 80,	45	34	36	35	114	80	142	56	55	50	42	16	705
80 to 90,	25	20	21	31	67	62	87	45	36	41	20	7	462
90 to 100,	5	4	8	6	25	15	18	6	6	5	7	2	107
Over 100,	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	1	.	1	.	.	6
Specified, .	468	319	388	501	1484	1451	1452	618	467	659	404	177	8388
Not spec'd, .	13	9	7	6	38	41	37	22	16	56	4	5	254
Total, .	481	328	395	507	1522	1492	1489	640	483	715	408	172	8642
Aver. age, .	30.89	37.5	33.59	29.81	29.42	26.48	30.66	32.22	34.24	28.38	31.08	30.23	30.26

A careful examination and analysis of the ages in each county, will show some difference in the average duration of life, so far as ascertained by the average age at death. I will not, however, attempt this analysis at this time, but present the aggregate returns of deaths for the whole State during the four years, 1842—1845, for each specified age, and the proportion they bear to 10,000 of all ages. (*p*)

(*p*)

AGE.	Number of Deaths.				To every 10,000 Deaths there were			
	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Under 1, - -	808	1052	1250	1478	1157	1349	1626	1762
1 to 2, - -	466	553	542	697	667	709	705	831
2 to 5, - -	637	679	556	739	912	871	723	881
5 to 10, - -	351	446	333	354	502	572	433	422
10 to 20, - -	493	496	532	592	706	636	692	706
20 to 30, - -	854	882	839	995	1222	1131	1091	1186
30 to 40, - -	555	648	655	704	794	831	852	839
40 to 50, - -	526	525	478	508	753	673	622	606
50 to 60, - -	474	488	434	500	679	626	564	596
60 to 70, - -	540	603	602	541	773	773	783	645
70 to 80, - -	649	767	751	705	929	984	977	840
80 to 90, - -	491	531	576	462	703	681	749	551
90 to 100, - -	137	122	137	107	196	156	178	128
Over 100, - -	5	6	4	6	7	8	5	7
Specified, - -	6986	7798	7689	8388	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Not specified, - -	510	507	561	254				
Total, - -	7496	8305	8250	8642				

One of the first ideas presented by this table, is the remarkable increase of infantile mortality within the four years, being from 1157 to 1762, or 605; over 6 per cent. And from the table it appears that this increase has been nearly gradual each year. Some variation is presented in other ages, but in none is it so striking as in that under one year. Are we aware that 17.62 per cent. of all the deaths, are of children under one year old? In a work on the Vital Statistics of Boston, which I published in 1840, the attention of the public was called to the great proportional increase of deaths among children under five years of age in cities; but I was not aware, until I made the above calculations, that in the more rural districts embraced in this report, the same causes had been in operation, there, though not in an equal degree, to destroy human life at its very beginnings. Such developments should arrest the serious attention of parents and all concerned, to ascertain and remove, if possible, the destructive agencies at work among us on this class of human beings.

These facts will appear in a still more forcible light, by presenting the proportionate number of survivors, calculated from the age of the dying, in the same manner as we have presented the number of survivors calculated from the age of the living. (See table (*d*), p. 73) Against the survivors in Massachusetts those of Preston, England, are given, taken from the Parliamentary Report on the Health

of Towns. The survivors there are presented in three divisions. One represents the upper class, among whom the best health and greatest longevity prevail; another, the middling class, who enjoy a lower grade of health; and the other the laboring class, who suffer most. The difference in the number of survivors, at the different ages, is very remarkable.

(q)

Age surviving.	Number surviving each specified age, calculated from the deaths.						
	In Massachusetts.				In Preston, England.		
	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	Gentry.	Tradesmen	Operatives
At Birth,	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
1 year,	88.43	86.51	83.74	82.38	90.8	79.6	68.2
2 years,	81.76	79.42	76.69	74.67	87.6	73.5	57.5
5 "	72.64	70.71	69.46	65.26	82.4	61.8	44.6
10 "	67.62	64.99	65.13	61.04	81.1	56.6	38.8
20 "	60.56	58.63	58.21	53.98	76.3	51.6	31.5
30 "	48.34	47.32	47.30	42.12	72.3	45.9	25.2
40 "	40.40	39.01	38.78	33.73	63.4	37.5	20.4
50 "	32.87	32.28	32.56	27.67	56.	28.1	15.6
60 "	26.08	26.02	26.92	21.71	45.1	20.5	11.2
70 "	18.35	18.29	19.09	15.26	25.4	13.3	6.1
80 "	9.06	8.45	9.32	6.86	8.	4.5	2.1
90 "	2.03	1.64	1.83	1.35	1.3	.8	.2
100 "	.07	.08	.05	.07	.	.	.

It appears from this table, that in Massachusetts, 60.56 per cent. in 1842 survived the age of 20, and only 53.98 in 1845; while in Preston, 76.3 per cent. of the "gentry," 51.6 per cent. of the "tradesmen," and only 31.5 per cent. of the "operatives," survived the same age. In Massachusetts, 26.08 in 1842, and only 21.71 in 1845, survived the age of 60, while in Preston 45.1 per cent. of the gentry, 20.5 per cent. of the tradesmen, and only 11.2 per cent. of the laborers survived that age. This shows that the people of Massachusetts do not enjoy so good health as the better classes in England, though better health than the laboring classes. The influence of circumstances and occupation on health and longevity, is strikingly illustrated by the statement concerning Preston. It appears that while 72.3 per cent. of the gentry survived 30 years, only 25.2 of the operatives, or laborers, survived the same age.

Place of birth has some influence on health and longevity. It is useful to know, not only whether the person dying was a native of the State, but the town, and, if possible, the locality in the town where he lived and died. Some particular places, near marshes and stagnant water, in rural districts, and in dirty streets and lanes, in cities, are known to be surrounded with a miasmatic atmosphere, that injures health and abridges life. To ascertain how far such causes exist, and what influence they possess, was one reason for inserting the place of birth in the Register. The Alphabetical Abstract of causes of death, specifies the facts in relation to each. From this the following table, including the still born, is compiled. (Table (r), next page.)

(r)

COUNTIES.	Natives of the town.	Other Americans.	Foreigners.	Not specified.	Total.
Berkshire, . . .	250	131	10	97	488
Franklin, . . .	139	103	.	89	331
Hampshire, . . .	206	92	1	96	395
Hampden, . . .	236	161	15	97	509
Worcester, . . .	887	431	26	183	1527
Middlesex, . . .	822	378	92	214	1506
Essex, . . .	937	245	23	299	1504
Norfolk, . . .	405	117	9	126	657
Plymouth, . . .	368	50	3	63	484
Bristol, . . .	425	124	12	158	719
Barnstable, . . .	326	55	12	15	408
Dukes and Nantucket,	166	14	6	1	187
Total, . . .	5167	1901	209	1438	8715

This table shows, in a forcible manner, the stationary habits which govern the inhabitants of the interior towns in Massachusetts. Of the 7,277, whose place of birth is specified, there were

	Number.	In 100.
Natives of the town in which they died,	5,167	or 71.01
Natives of other places in the United States,	1,901	" 26.12
Born in foreign countries,	209	" 2.37
Total,	7,277	100.00

The counties having the largest proportion of persons who were not born in the town in which they died, were Worcester and Middlesex. Essex was the next, and Hampshire had the least. Middlesex, including Lowell and Charlestown, had nearly four times as many foreigners as any other. The counties in which large manufacturing towns are situated are affected by immigration to these towns, and they show a larger proportion of Americans, born in other places, as well as foreigners.

Occupation is supposed to have some influence on health and longevity. Some employments are supposed to be favorable and others unfavorable. The table, page 86, was compiled from the three published reports and the manuscript returns for this year, and it will be found to possess interest. Subjoined are a few facts from this table, showing the influence of some of the occupations specified. The table contains the number and average age each year, and the total for the four years. (Table (s,) next page.)

Though these observations are too limited to show how far occupation has an influence over life, yet they show there is a difference, which it is important to have investigated and known by a long series of observations extending throughout the State. According to this statement, the average age of 2,673 farmers was 64, and of 461 shoemakers, 43.

Domestic condition has been supposed to have some influence on longevity. From an examination of the returns last year, it appears that of 4,528 persons, whose ages are specified as having died over 20 years old, the domestic condition of 36,439 is stated. This is 39.75 per cent. of the whole deaths, and 75.95 per cent. of those over 20. The number, aggregate age, and average age of each class, appears as follows: (t)

(s)

OCCUPATION.	1842.		1843.		1844.		1845.		Total.	
	No.	Age.	No.	Age.	No.	Age.	No.	Age.	No.	Age.
Farmers, . .	660	66	706	66	663	64	645	61	2673	64
Physicians, .	7	61	25	57	27	54	20	56	79	56
Clergymen, .	14	55	22	55	18	51	11	50	65	53
Lawyers, . .	12	56	5	53	7	44	7	49	31	51
Teachers, . .	9	38	16	37	14	33	21	29	60	34
Blacksmiths, .	34	57	35	59	31	50	45	52	145	54
Carpenters, .	95	62	99	48	76	51	79	52	349	53
Painters, . .	12	41	8	42	21	41	10	41	51	41
Shoemakers, .	104	46	113	48	110	39	134	41	461	43
Laborers, . .	193	49	171	51	158	50	208	49	735	49
Seamen, . .	176	39	199	43	128	37	131	42	634	42
Tailoresses, .	.	.	.	.	7	41	16	40	23	41
Dress-makers,	.	.	.	.	3	25	11	30	14	29

(t)

CLASS.	Males.			Females.		
	Number	Aggregate Age.	Aver. Age.	Number	Aggregate Age.	Aver. Age.
Unmarried,	338	12,149	35.91	424	23,392	55.16
Married,	956	53,613	56.07	963	46,334	48.11
Widowed,	162	11,671	72.04	596	35,384	59.03
Total,	1456	77,433	53.18	1983	105,110	53.00

This table is formed by adding the complete years of each class together, as they appear in the returns. As many lived more than the full years, in parts from one to twelve months, it is presumed they lived, on the average, half a year longer than above specified. This would give the average age of the males 53.68 years, and the females 53.50, and the classes in the same proportion. Though no definite conclusions should be drawn from these facts, yet they possess great interest, and should be preserved and combined with others of a similar nature which future investigations may produce.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The *diseases and causes of death* are presented in this Report in three separate abstracts. The first (p. 41) gives them arranged in alphabetical order, under names generally as they were registered and returned, and designating, in regard to each, the sex, (which has not been done in previous years,) age, month of the year, and place of birth. This mode of presenting the causes of death will afford easy data to some persons for more minute analysis, if desired. In the two next abstracts, the causes of death are classified, with some slight modifications, according to the nomenclature prepared by William Farr, Esq., and adopted by the Registrar General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, in England. Some alteration of his list has been made, and each class arranged alphabetically.

Some classification of diseases is absolutely necessary for statistical purposes ; but there is a difficulty in making one that shall be entirely satisfactory even to one's own mind. Physicians disagree in regard to it. While it may be proper that each one should be at liberty to return the cause of death under such name as he shall select, it is much to be desired that such names only should be used, as would give a clear definition of such cause. I have in possession the printed abstracts of the interments in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, for the last twenty years, beside those in our State, and other places, and have copied every cause of death, as it appears in these documents. They show not only that a great variety of causes of death exist, but that very many different names are given to the same cause. It will at once be perceived, that it would be almost impossible to make a statistical analysis of each cause, as given under these numerous names. It becomes necessary to group them together in classes, giving those that are synonymous, or nearly so, under one name, and those affecting a particular organ or function, under one class. With such a classification, a comparison may be instituted in regard to the prevalence and fatality of diseases in different places and in different seasons.

In the second table (p. 49) the causes of death are given for this year by counties. In the third table (p. 55) a summary for each of the four years is given, and the proportions of deaths from each specified cause, to 10,000 from all causes ; the most interesting comparison that can be presented from the facts. It would be instructive to know the number of deaths from each cause that take place in a given number of the living, but this cannot be done without full returns, which can be obtained only under an improved method of collecting the facts.

In making these tables, the county of Suffolk has been excluded, as in the other tables. It was desirable to make a comparison in regard to diseases in the same territory each year, and it could not be done without excluding that county. It appears that

	In 1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
The deaths from all causes were . . .	7,496	8,305	8,250	8,642
The deaths from specified causes were	<u>6,149</u>	<u>7,177</u>	<u>7,076</u>	<u>8,070</u>
Leaving from causes not specified,	1,347	1,128	1,174	572

Showing that the causes of death have been more accurately returned this than any former year.

The following table represents the comparative prevalence of the different classes of diseases, taking 10,000 as the basis of the calculation for all known causes of death. (Table (u,) next page.)

1. *Zimotic Diseases*.—This term is used to designate all epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases. It is the property of *zimotic* diseases to prevail more at one time than at another, or more in one locality than in another ; and to become epidemic, endemic, or contagious, under certain circumstances. In some seasons and places they occur with more frequency, or with more virulence and fatality, than in others. It is supposed that the best index to public health may be deduced from the proportion in which these diseases prevail.

In looking at the table, it does not appear that the proportion of these diseases has varied very much in the four years. Last year there were 92 more in every 10,000 than in either other year, and 432 more than in 1844, showing an increase

of this class of diseases. Cholera infantum, croup, dysentery, fevers, and scarlatina, have been the predominant diseases of this class. Scarlatina, one of the diseases most to be dreaded among us, caused nearly one quarter of all the deaths of this class the last year. The ages at which this disease occurred for the four years, appear in table (v.)

2. *Diseases of Uncertain or General Seat.*—If accuracy were at all times used in recording the cause of death, this class would be small. It appears that half of all the deaths in this class the last year, and more than half the previous year, were returned under the convenient name of "Infantile Diseases." Such an indefinite term should not be used in the Registers, when the specific causes can be ascertained.

3. *Diseases of the Nervous System.*—The diseases under this head have maintained about their usual proportions. Delirium tremens was classed, before this

(u)

CLASSES OF CAUSES.	To 10,000 Deaths by all specified causes, there were of			
	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
1. Zimotic Diseases, . . .	2644	2583	2299	2736
SPORADIC DISEASES				
2. Of Uncertain or General Seat,	745	1243	1625	1102
3. Of the Nervous System, .	891	942	892	984
4. Of the Organs of Respiration,	3186	2852	2878	3150
5. Of the Organs of Circulation,	194	171	199	168
6. Of the Digestive Organs, .	418	748	612	641
7. Of the Urinary Organs, . .	39	45	45	40
8. Of the Organs of Generation,	132	166	96	118
9. Of the Organs of Locomotion,	68	54	48	42
10. Of the Integumentary System,	15	20	17	21
11. Of Old Age,	1060	798	892	624
12. Of External Causes, . .	608	378	397	374
Total,	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

(v)

AGE.	Massachusetts.					Philadelphia. 1841—44.	Ireland. 1830—1840.
	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	Total.		
Under 1, - -	31	79	49	83	242	81	1571
1 to 2, - -	49	90	42	89	270	161	1128
2 to 5, - -	150	308	123	204	785	464	1879
5 to 10, - -	99	163	59	83	404	214	2380
10 to 20, - -	32	41	32	41	146	15	678
20 to 30, - -	11	9	8	16	44	11	145
Over 30, - -	11	16	6	7	40	15	53
Not specified,	100	26	11	15	152	.	42
Total, - -	483	732	330	538	2083	967	7876

year, under intemperance. That is undoubtedly the cause, but not the disease itself. Hydrocephalus has increased from 182 to 234 in 10,000 deaths.

4. *Diseases of the Organs of Respiration.*—This class of causes produces nearly one third of all the deaths, maintaining, however, about its usual proportions during the four years. Consumption, that great destroyer of human life in New England, Old England, and other places, caused 2,072, or 2,567 in every 10,000 deaths last year.

The fatality of this disease is so general, that some more detail in regard to it may be profitable to present to the public. In the four years, the returns show the ages and the months of the year, in which consumption took place, as follows:—

(w)

AGE.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	MONTH.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Under 1, - -	35	35	3	119	January, - -	117	136	141	166
1 to 2, - -	14	24	41	54	February, - -	137	127	135	136
2 to 5, - -	20	23	21	24	March, - - -	153	167	127	175
5 to 10, - -	15	15	18	28	April, - - -	145	174	133	198
10 to 20, - -	132	165	172	171	May, - - -	125	183	151	196
20 to 30, - -	349	490	412	445	June, - - -	130	148	126	179
30 to 40, - -	255	364	281	339	July, - - -	124	156	143	198
40 to 50, - -	190	234	184	244	August, - - -	114	164	130	148
50 to 60, - -	149	162	139	191	September, -	120	180	157	156
60 to 70, - -	144	166	142	194	October, - -	131	175	136	179
70 to 80, - -	121	135	131	175	November, -	94	143	129	190
80 to 90, - -	35	30	35	44	December, -	128	158	130	171
Over 90, - -	1	7	5	3					
Specified, - -	1460	1850	1584	2031	Specified, - -	1518	1911	1638	2072
Not Specified,	346	70	69	41	Not Specified,	288	9	15	
Total, - -	1806	1920	1653	2072	Total, - -	1806	1920	1653	2072

From these tables, it appears that age has a great influence on the disease, but the seasons have not. A more accurate and extensive range of facts might, however, in some respects, vary this result.

5. *Diseases of the Organs of Circulation.*—The diseases of the heart constitute the principal part of this class. The proportion has not varied much during the period of observation.

6. *Diseases of the Digestive Organs.*—This is a very important class of diseases. Several of the Zimotic diseases, such as cholera, cholera infantum, diarrhœa, and dysentery, particularly affect these organs. They may be reclassified as follows:—

	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Zimotic disease of the digestive organs, .	792	724	547	795
Sporadic diseases of the digestive organs,	418	748	612	641
Both,	1,210	1,472	1,159	1,436

From this statement, it appears that affections of these organs are the cause of an eighth or a ninth of all the deaths. The age and seasons have great influence in

their production, as will appear from a more particular examination of the tables. Taking four diseases of the Zimotic class last year, we have the following results:—

(x)

AGE.	Cholera.	Cholera Infantum.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Total.	MONTH.	Cholera.	Cholera Infantum.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Total.
Under 1, .	5	64	10	71	150	Jan'y,	1	.	1	2	4
1 to 2, . .	3	38	5	46	92	Feb'y,	1	.	.	1	2
2 to 5, . .	3	5	.	28	36	March,	.	2	.	2	4
5 to 10, .	3	3	.	5	11	April,	4	1	1	1	7
10 to 20, .	3	.	.	8	11	May,	1	.	1	4	6
20 to 30, .	5	.	3	3	11	June,	.	4	2	8	14
30 to 40, .	4	.	.	6	10	July,	5	21	3	42	71
40 to 50, .	2	.	1	3	6	August,	21	34	3	71	129
50 to 60, .	2	.	1	1	4	Sept'r,	9	36	7	50	102
60 to 70, .	7	.	.	6	13	Octob'r,	2	10	3	12	27
70 to 80, .	5	.	2	17	24	Nov'r,	.	2	2	3	7
80 to 90, .	1	.	.	6	7	Dec'r,	1	1	1	4	7
Not specified,	2	1	2	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total, .	45	111	24	200	380	.	45	111	24	200	380

Here is a remarkable illustration of the influence of age and seasons in the production of diseases. Perhaps the number in the diseases specified may not be strictly correct, as it is difficult to distinguish them, and to give each such a diagnosis, as would lead to an exact classification; notwithstanding the statements as a whole are very instructive. When it is known that more than two thirds of all the deaths by these diseases occur to those under *two years of age*, and in the months of *August and September*, it should lead people to guard those ages, especially in those months, against their attack.

7. *Diseases of the Urinary Organs.*—Gravel is one of the most formidable diseases of this class. Cystitis, or inflammation of the bladder, the next. The returns shew some variation in particular diseases, though nearly the same proportion in the class.

8. *Diseases of the Organs of Generation.*—Childbirth and puerperal fever are assigned to this class, as their appropriate place in this abstract, though the latter is a zimotic disease. The number of deaths from these causes is very considerable, as will appear on examination of the tables. Puerperal fever is supposed to be highly contagious, and is a disease which frequently proves fatal.

9. *Diseases of the Organs of Locomotion.*—Cases which sometimes are returned as rheumatic fever are classed here. Rheumatism and diseases of the spine, are the principal part of this class.

10. *Diseases of the Integumentary System.*—Ulcers cause the greatest part of the deaths of this class.

11. *Old Age.*—The number returned as having died of old age, has decreased in the four years, from 1060 to 624 in 10,000. It is, however, doubtful, whether there would have been that difference had the cause of death been always accurately stated.

12. *Deaths from External Causes.*—In 1842, the number of deaths from these causes was apparently much larger than it has since been. This is partly accounted for, from the fact that those dying by delirium tremens were classed with these causes then, but have not been so classed this year. There appears also to have been an unusual number drowned that year. Burns and scalds, and casualties, have maintained about their usual proportions. Suicides have somewhat decreased.

It might be profitable to go into a more particular analysis of each of these classes of diseases, but I will not attempt it at this time. Persons who desire it can find many interesting facts by a careful examination of the printed tables.

Such are some of the facts developed under the Registry System, and they lead us to hope that those in future will be still more interesting. Other suggestions present themselves, but the intended limits of this communication will not allow of their introduction. I wish, however, before closing, to offer some more general remarks on the importance of Registration in its connection with the health of the people.

Man comes into existence a helpless being; arrives at maturity by the aid of others; exists in a state of maturity an indefinite period, and then decays and dies; "the dust returns to the earth as it was." This is the common lot of all. Life may extend to 70, 80, 90, or even 100 years; and it may terminate in a year, a month, or even in an hour. We know that we all must die; but the time of our death we do not know. It may come comparatively soon; it may not. We believe, however, that the time of our death, though unknown, is in some respects within our own control. We believe that disease and death come not from a mysterious, unconditional Providence, but are the result of the condition of our bodies, and the influences that are brought to bear upon them. Many of these influences we bring around us by our own voluntary choice. One person takes proper food, at proper times and in proper quantities; another indulges his appetite, and takes unwholesome food, at irregular intervals, and in injurious quantities. One person clothes himself so as to maintain an uniform temperature of the body at all times; another guards not against the changes in the temperature of the seasons, but allows himself to be alternately heated and chilled. One man selects a place of residence where the air he breathes is pure and invigorating; another, where the noxious impurities of the air carry disease and death to his vitals. One person keeps his skin in a healthy state by frequent bathing; another permits it to be coated over with impurities. One chooses an occupation which gives sufficient exercise, physical and mental, to keep all the energies of his body vigorous; another, one that requires too much labor for his physical nature, or has in itself unhealthy influences, or, in his occupation over-exerts himself so as to impair his physical and mental capacity. One man exposes himself to the contagion of small pox, knowing, at the same time, that it is dangerous, takes the disease and dies; another vaccinates himself, and thus protects and saves his life. One man ventures upon the ocean without sufficient knowledge to manage his craft, and thus exposes himself to accidental death; another is cautious, and ventures no farther than safety permits. The act of the *one* in each case is favorable, and prolongs life; the act of *another* is unfavorable, and abridges it. And will not every one say, that all these acts and influences

for good or for evil, are more or less within the control of man?—That life may be saved and prolonged, and that the time of our death may, in some sense, be postponed? Numerous illustrations of this truth present themselves within the circle of our own knowledge. The late Rev. Dr. Ripley, of Concord, when settled, in 1778, had a feeble constitution; and one man voted against him because he thought it useless to settle a man whose probabilities of living were so small. He, however, by great care and attention to his health, acquired a pretty good constitution, and survived his 90th year. He probably added 50 years to a life, which another man, under similar circumstances, would not have enjoyed.

We know, we have seen in these Reports, that these influences are not alike in all places, nor in all seasons, nor in all employments, nor in all circumstances; and that sickness and death take place in proportion as these influences are favorable or unfavorable. Some places and circumstances are more fatal to children, some to adults, and some to the aged, than others. In one locality one class of diseases, and in a different one another class prevail. Endemic influences differ very much in different places and seasons. But what these influences are, or wherein they differ, we are not informed. We only know it by partial investigation and vague report. We have not sufficient data for definite plans of action.

The tendency of our people is to become a manufacturing people; and manufactures have been so far investigated, that the cost of every article—material, transportation, labor, wages, board, &c.—is clearly known. But what amount of life is sacrificed thereby we know not. We do not know, though we ought to know, whether there exists, or whether there is any tendency to, such a condition in any of our cities and towns, as would justify the remark of Mr. Chadwick, before quoted, making them “characteristic of those crowded, filthy, badly administered districts in England, where the average duration of life is short, the proportion of the young very great, and the adult generation transient.”

The impression seems to have become general, that human life is improving; that it is longer and healthier now than formerly. This, however, needs confirmation, before it shall be asserted as truth. From investigations which have been made, I am inclined to think otherwise, especially in some places, and when the present time is compared with a period fifty years ago. We do not know, though we ought to know, how far our habits—the universal thirst for wealth in America, the reckless speculations of some, the hap-hazard mode of living and disregard to health of others, the luxury and extravagance of certain classes, and other practices of modern society—tend to check the progress of the population, increase disease, and weaken the race.

The average duration of life, and the average age at death, vary according to different influences. We have not, as yet, a sufficient number of facts to illustrate these differences in America. Life insurance is now as common in Europe as insurance on property; and it is becoming more common in this country. But data do not exist, sufficiently accurate, to form a proper table of rates which shall be paid here for such risks. The rates charged by the Massachusetts Life Office were calculated from the deaths alone, and are therefore supposed to be incorrect, as are others which have since been calculated here. These matters concern the insured—the people as much as the insurers—and are important to be generally known. But there is a higher value than this to be gained. For while it is important to the insured and the insurer, (comprising a

small part only of the people,) to know how long a known life will probably continue, it is also important to all others, comprising the great mass of the population, to know how long they may probably live, under the different circumstances in which they may be placed.

As this matter is one of interest, we have compiled, from the latest information, the following statement of the mean duration of life in several places in Europe. We have also given similar calculations made by Mr. Wigglesworth for the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company. It shows how many years a person may, on the average of the whole population, reasonably expect to live in each place, at birth, and when he arrives at the other ages specified.

(y)

A PERSON HAS AN AVERAGE CHANCE OF LIVING						
In	At					
	Birth.	1 year.	5 years.	15 yrs.	30 yrs.	60 yrs.
	years.	years.	years.	years.	years.	years.
England and Wales, . .	41.16	47.13	50.01	43.74	33.68	14.0
Surry, England, . .	45.3	50.3	51.5	45.4	34.8	14.4
London, " . .	36.7	42.7	48.0	41.3	30.3	.
Liverpool, " . .	25.7	33.1	42.8	37.4	27.0	.
France,	39.6	45.9	49.0	43.6	33.71	13.2
Massachus. Life Ins. Co.	28.15	36.78	40.88	36.17	30.25	15.45
Sweden,	39.0	.	50.0	48.8	32.7	12.6
Difference between Surry and Liverpool, }	19.4	17.02	8.07	8.0	7.8	.

Here is a remarkable illustration of the influence of locality on health and longevity. Surry is an example of the health enjoyed in the interior, rural districts of England; London in a favorable town district; and Liverpool in an unfavorable one. In Liverpool, the population is dense, and adequate means are not adopted for cleanliness and ventilation. It appears that while a child has a chance of living 45 years in Surry, it has a chance of living only 25 in Liverpool, showing a difference of 19.6 years; or, in other words, life is but five ninths as long in Liverpool as in Surry! At 30 it is shortened 7.8 years, or about one fifth! Yet before the facts developed by the Registration System were known, it was asserted by one of the most accurate writers in England, that "the great increase in the town of Liverpool is attributed to the *salubrity of the air*, and the progressive improvement in its trade, commerce, steam-navigation and rail-roads"! This is a forcible illustration of the importance of Registration. Facts of equal importance may be developed in our own State, in relation to the condition of our towns and cities. If the table of Mr. Wigglesworth adopted by the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company is a correct representation of the mean duration of life in this State, (though we believe it is not,) it is as unhealthy as Liverpool, and the most unhealthy districts of England.

The average age at death, as has been already said, is not to be taken as an exact index of comparison for the health of a place, unless we have the number, age, and condition of the living. It is, however, an interesting fact to be known, and we present, in the subjoined table, several calculations made from such data as are in our possession.

(z)

Period of Observation.	Number of years.	Place and Circumstances.	Number of Deaths.	Average age at death.
1779 to 1842,	63	Concord,	1,600	38.08
1812 to 1845,	33	Plympton, (see page 32,) .	494	41.00
1805 to 1836,	32	Amherst, N. H.	815	32.00
1817 to 1843,	27	Dorchester, Mass.	1,767	32.20
1842,	1	Massachusetts Returns, .	6,986	34.77
1843,	1	" "	7,798	33.82
1844,	1	" "	7,689	33.74
1845,	1	" "	8,388	30.26
1811 to 1820,	10	City of Boston,	8,020	27.25
1821 to 1830,	10	" " "	10,731	25.88
1831 to 1840,	10	" " "	16,314	22.72
1841,	1	England,	335,106	29.46
1841,	1	Ireland, . . . . .	.	28.00
1841,	1	London, . . . . .	.	27.00
1841,	1	Liverpool, . . . . .	.	20.00
1814 to 1833,	20	Geneva, Switzerland, males,	5,219	38.44
1814 to 1833,	20	" " females,	5,688	42.68
1814 to 1833,	20	" " both,	10,907	40.67

This statement affords another striking illustration of the influence of locality on longevity. Estimating by the above average age at death, the value of life to be 100 per cent. enjoyed by the people of Plympton, then the people of Boston would, according to the age 1831—1840, enjoy but 55.41 per cent.; or, in another view, the people of Boston, on the average, live a less number of years by 44.59 per cent. than do the people of Plympton!

To obtain all the needful information on this subject, we must have the aid of government. The Legislature must direct as to the method of collecting and registering the facts in the towns, and the agency by which they shall be returned, digested, arranged, published and spread before the people. We have had a trigonometrical survey that has drawn out the topography and boundaries of our towns, the height of our elevations, and the course of our rivers; we have had a geological survey that has figured to us the structure and formation of our soil, and pointed out the probable mineral worth of every place; we have had an agricultural survey, designed to reveal the physical resources of our lands, and to teach our farmers where and by what means crops of grain and grass may be produced in greatest abundance and at the cheapest rate, where and how sheep can be best and cheapest raised, hogs fattened and cattle maintained; we have had a zoological survey which presents the names, localities and habits of beasts, birds, fishes, insects and reptiles, which exist in this Commonwealth; and we rejoice that such surveys have been made. It was for the good of the people that they were undertaken, and they reflect high honor on those who instituted them.

But while we have all these surveys and maps, pointing out the boundaries of our counties and towns, the localities of our mineral wealth, the best lands for farming and the production of domestic animals, and the existence of noxious and innoxious wild animals, we may ask where is the sanatory map which points out the healthy and unhealthy localities in the State, which will reveal to our people where and how human life can best be sustained and longest continued,

and where and how human energy and productive power can be best brought to bear upon the culture and development of the sources of wealth in the State? Have we not said by such legislation that our cattle and our hogs are of more value than the lives of ourselves and our children? Have we not extended to the brute, whose worth is measured by dollars and cents, a species of legislation which has been withheld from man, who is of immeasurable value? When compared to investigations into the physical condition of man, all other investigations dwindle into insignificance.

The following sensible remarks on this subject are quoted from a review of *Dunglison on Human Health*, in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, published in Philadelphia, for April last, a most able quarterly periodical work:—

“What our governments, either national or state, have done for the health of the people is unknown to us. If they have enacted any laws, or taken any measures to prevent the beginning and the growth, in this country, of the lamentable state of things that has been shown to exist in regard to the poor of Europe, they have escaped our notice. They have done almost every thing else; but this they have left undone. They have legislated for property, but not for life. They have cared for the lands, the cattle, the money of their constituents, but not for their health and longevity. They have held out encouragements for the people to raise the largest crops, the strongest horses, the fattest hogs, and the most active silk-worms; in short, for the greatest productive power of land or beast, but nothing is done for the great producer, the owner, director and enjoyer of all. Congress has surveyed the public lands, and ascertained how much and what sort of crops can be raised upon them; and urged their fruitfulness as a motive for people to buy and settle upon them; but whether these settlers are to live or to die upon those lands, is not thought worth the inquiry. They have taken pains to inquire at how much cost of capital and machinery, and of labor, horse-power and steam-power, of men-power, mines can be wrought, cloth can be made, and ships can be sailed; but how much cost of life, how much deterioration of health and strength are necessary for these operations, these have not received any examination. Whether our manufacturing population is sinking to the weakness and depravity of the operatives of Manchester, or are yet as healthy and live as long as men and women in other employments; these are matters which our governments ought to inquire into, but which they have not regarded.

“Massachusetts is the only State that has provided for the Registration of Births and Deaths, and the causes of mortality. And even this law is not completely enforced. The only attempt which the national government has made to gather any facts in regard to the sanitary condition of the people, was an inquiry into the number of the deaf and dumb, the blind and the insane, at the enumeration of 1840. And these facts were so carelessly gathered and faithlessly published, as to be worse than useless.

“The same diversity of physical and sanitary condition, which is shown to exist among the rich and the poor of Britain, is also found here in this favored land. We have examined a few towns, and our facts corroborate those of Mr. Chadwick. The difference of domestic condition and of longevity between the comfortable and the straitened classes is not so wide here as it is there, but it is none the less certain. In Dorchester, Mass., the poor averaged 27 years, and the prosperous farmers 45 years of life. In Concord and Brooklyn, a similar differ-

ence was shown. This partial dealing of death with his subjects is evinced the most among the children. Among the poor of Dorchester, 32 per cent. of all the deaths were under two years of age; among the richer, only 12 per cent. died at that age. On the other hand, 27 per cent. of the prosperous, and only 9 per cent. of the unprosperous, reached or passed their threescore and ten years. These facts show that there is, at least, a field of inquiry almost untouched in America, but which we commend to the paternal care of our government to investigate and ascertain the extent of the evils, and the discrepancies which are found in the three towns above-named."

It is melancholy to think that out of 30,761 persons, whose ages are known and embraced in the Reports for the past 4 years, 13,154 died under 20 years of age, and before they had attained their full maturity of life; more melancholy that this great mortality among the young is increasing from year to year; and more melancholy still, that it is owing to circumstances which are mostly within the control of the people, and are partly preventable, if known and understood.

It may seem strange that any attempt should be made to estimate in money what money did not procure, and cannot restore if taken away; yet the inclination of some people is to estimate every measure by the profit or loss in dollars and cents which it will produce, rather than by any general good it affords to humanity. These considerations justify the remarks I propose now to make.

Looking at this subject, then, merely in a pecuniary point of view, and upon man merely as a producer, who is to add to the wealth of the State, we must consider this subject of Registration and its consequent developments, as having a most important bearing upon its prosperity. In this view, man may be regarded as worth so much to the State as his power of production exceeds the cost of his maintenance. We may look upon all expenditures for his support and education, during infancy and childhood, as so much capital invested, which may be made profitable, when he shall receive his full development and productive power. The death of all children may be considered a loss equal to the whole cost of their previous maintenance. Some persons open family accounts with every child, and can at any time show the expenses incurred. It may be below the truth to estimate the average annual expenses which each child in the State incurs, at \$50.

The population of Massachusetts may now be estimated at 800,000. From the returns of deaths received, I have estimated the whole number of deaths in the State last year to have been 14,000, which is nearly 1 in 57, or 1.75 per cent. of the population. Of these 14,000, there died at least 6,000 children and youth under 15 years of age. Estimating the average ages of the whole of these in the same proportion as those actually known, it will give for each about 4 years, or 24,000 years of life for all. This, at \$50 a year, amounts to \$1,200,000 as the cost of their maintenance. And all this sum was lost to the State last year by premature deaths, before any return could be made for it. Can any one doubt that half, at least, might have been saved by proper knowledge and care?

The proportionate number of deaths among the young has been increasing for several years past in this country, as our investigations prove; and we see no reason to believe it will be less, until more knowledge is diffused in regard to the laws of life and the liability to death, under different circumstances. This immense loss of the productive power of the State, may be considered as an

annual tax, which the people must pay every year, until they find out and use the means of prevention.

It has been said that the strength and dignity of a nation consist not in its lands, its houses, its wealth,—but in its people. And I have already stated, that that people is most prosperous which contains the greatest proportionate number of the productive age. In the above calculation, we have not taken into account the loss sustained by the death of those belonging to this age. This would greatly swell the amount of loss. We have stated that by care and attention the late Dr. Ripley probably added 50 years to his life. We are now considering, time as money, labor as money, *life as money*, and not the real, moral value of that good man's services. Estimating then this time to be worth \$1.00 per day, or \$300 per annum, the 50 years of life were worth \$15,000, and that sum was saved by the prolongation of his life. The deaths in this State last year, as we have estimated, were 14,000. Of these, 5,000 probably died between 15 and 60 years of age. Let us suppose that by proper knowledge of the laws of health and a proper care in obeying these laws, 5 years might, on the average, have been added to each of their lives,—and this seems not an extravagant supposition,—then we should have saved, instead of losing, as we have done, 25,000 years of life, which, estimated to be worth in this adult age, only \$150 a year, would have produced \$3,750,000! And this loss must be annual!

There is still another view of this great subject. William Farr, Esq., one of the ablest writers on Vital Statistics of the age, stated in McCulloch's Statistical Account of the British Empire, that “when 1 person in 100 dies annually, 2 are constantly sick; although this exact relation is, perhaps, not preserved in in fancy and old age, or where the rate of mortality deviates from the standard, it may be safely assumed as a near approximation to the truth.” This principle may be more simply expressed thus: The proportion of persons constantly sick in a population, is double the annual proportion per cent., which the deaths bear to the living in that population. According to the estimate already given, the proportion of deaths to the population in Massachusetts was 1 in 57, or 1.75 per cent. Double this per centage, and we have 3.5 as the proportion per cent.; and this proportion of 800,000 is 28,000, the actual number constantly sick in this State.

Sickness occasions a two-fold loss; one for the time and labor of the sick, and the other for the nursing, medical attendance, medicine, and other expenses, which they require. The first may be estimated at \$50, and the second at \$150, or \$200 per annum for both, which multiplied by the 28,000, give a total annual loss by sickness of \$5,600,000! It is supposed that half of this sickness is preventable, and that half of this enormous sum might be saved if the laws of health were properly understood and obeyed.

We might save then—

By diminishing the mortality of infancy and childhood,	\$600,000
By prolonging the lives of adults,	3,750,000
By preserving the general health and diminishing sickness,	2,800,000
Making, according to this view, an annual total saving of	\$7,150,000

This amounts in ten years to \$71,500,000, or about *one quarter of all the property of the Commonwealth*, according to the valuation of 1840!

This is a pecuniary view of the subject. But, however striking it may appear, it deserves not to be mentioned, when contrasted with another, which presents itself. The amount of widowhood and orphanage which death occasions, and the poverty and suffering which often accompany them, may be estimated by the community or individual who contributes to their relief. Man may be convinced that vast losses are annually incurred by neglect of health, and that any sums expended to prevent them would be a capital invested, on which an enormous interest would be paid, by diminishing the sickness and mortality and increasing the productive labor of the people. But who can estimate, in dollars and cents, the care, anxiety and suffering, mental and physical, which the premature sickness or death of a husband or wife, a father or mother, a son or daughter, a brother or sister, a friend or connexion, may occasion? Who can tell how much even one such death, by blighting earthly hopes, impairs the vital energies of the living, and accelerates the approach of another? The mental anguish and physical suffering which sickness and death produce, may possibly be feebly figured to one's own imagination, but their full force must lie concealed in the mind of each individual sufferer.

But we would not rest our reasons in favor of Registration on any pecuniary view of the subject. Man is not a mere producer—a mere machine. His life or death, his happiness or misery are much too high objects upon which to place a pecuniary value. He is more nicely made, more wonderfully organized, requires to be guarded with more care from any influence that may surround him, to produce disorganization and unfit him for use, is capable of higher and more noble purposes, and has a higher and more noble destiny; and in proportion as in each of these he exceeds a mere machine, in such proportion ought we to regard his intellectual and moral nature, and the means used to preserve and develop his physical powers to enable him best to accomplish the great purposes of his intellectual and moral existence.

This is a matter of great magnitude. It deserves that full illustration which could only be derived from facts preserved and gathered from every part of the State. "As there is a poverty that is self-inflicted, and may be self-removed," says a late writer, "so there is a certain amount of disease and annual mortality in every place that is self-inflicted; and the community that does not strive by every available means to reduce its disease and mortality bills to the lowest sum of human suffering, and the lowest rate of annual mortality, is as guilty of suicide as the individual who takes with his own hands the life God has given, and hurries unbidden into the presence of his Judge."

It may be asked, what can the government do to arrest the hand of death? We do not suppose that an act of the Legislature can compel a child to live, or an adult to keep his energies in a healthy state of action. But it is as certain that human life may be prolonged by knowledge and care, as it is that an ox will fatten, a silk worm spin its thread, or a plant thrive, better, where knowledge and care are bestowed, than where they are not. Let the facts which the Registry System proposes to collect concerning Births, Deaths and Marriages, and the circumstances which attend them, be collected, digested, arranged, published and diffused annually, and their effects on the living energies of the people would be incalculable. They would be an annual lesson on the laws of human life in their operation among ourselves—a kind of *Practical Physiology* taught in all our towns and at our

firesides—and hence, far more instructive and impressive than any derived from books. They would teach our people how to understand human life, and how to improve, prolong and make it happy. They would also teach a highly important moral lesson. Registration would sometimes operate as a check upon vice, and it would lead our people so “to *number* our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom.” It behooves the State to develop and preserve its productive power—the lives and health of the people—as much as possible, and search out those causes which tend to blast it in its bud, or wither it in its ripeness.

These are not the speculations of a visionary theorist, but the legitimate deductions from serious, sober facts. We are not a theorist—an experimentalist. We have no sympathy with the opinions of some modern reformers, who seem to be governed by theories founded on uncertain, partial data, or vague conjecture. We are a statistician—a dealer in facts. We wish to ascertain the laws of human life, developed by the natural constitution of our bodies, as they actually exist under the influences that surround them, and to learn how far they may be favorably modified and improved. This can only be done by an accurate knowledge of the facts that are daily occurring among us. These matters are important to the physician to aid him in curing the sick, but far more important to the people to aid them in *learning how to live without being sick*; and they deserve the serious consideration of all persons in this Commonwealth.

To show that these matters are practicable, we cite the example of other governments. In most European states, facts of this kind are registered and collected in a careful, systematic manner, not for the purpose of aiding any police regulations, as some have erroneously supposed, but for the physical benefit of the people. And, whatever we Americans may say to the contrary, the average longevity in many places where these measures have been in operation, appears greater than with us.

Geneva was one of the earliest cities to establish a system of Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. The Registers were begun as early as 1549, and have since been continued with great care. They are viewed as preappointed evidences of civil rights. The registration includes the name of the disease which caused the death, entered by a district physician, who is charged by the State with the inspection of every person who dies within his district. A second table is made up from certificates setting forth the nature of the disease, with a specification of the symptoms, and observations required to be made by the private physician who may have had the care of the diseased. These registers have been frequently examined. I have before me the results of an examination made by Edward Mallet, a very able work, published in the “*Annales D’Hygienne*.” From this work it appears that human life has wonderfully improved since these registers were kept. The number of years which it was probable that every individual born would live, appears in the different periods as follows:

Period.	Years.	Months.	Days.	Rate of Increase.
1550 to 1600	8	7	26	100
1600 to 1700	13	3	16	153
1701 to 1750	27	9	13	321
1751 to 1800	31	3	5	361
1801 to 1813	40	8	10	470
1814 to 1833	45	0	29	521

Showing that the mean duration of life has increased more than five times during these periods!

The progression of the population and increased duration of life has been attended by a progression in happiness. As prosperity advanced marriages became fewer and later. The proportion of births were reduced, but a greater number of the infants born were preserved, and the proportion of the population in manhood became greater. In the early ages, the excessive mortality was accompanied by an excessive fecundity. In the last ten years of the 17th century a marriage still produced more than five children; the probable duration of life attained was not 20 years. Towards the end of the 18th century, there was scarcely three children to a marriage, and the probabilities exceeded 32 years. At the present time, a marriage only produces $2\frac{1}{2}$ children, and the probability of life is 45 years.

Geneva has arrived at a high state of civilization. The real productive power of the population has increased in a much greater proportion than the increase in its actual number. The absolute number of the population has only doubled during three centuries; but the value of the population—the productive power, has more than doubled upon the mere numerical increase. In other words, a population of 27,000 in which the probability of life is 40 years for each individual, is more than twice as strong for the purposes of production, as a population of 27,000, in which the probability or value of life was only 20 years for each individual.

This wonderful improvement is attributed, among other things, by M. Mallet, to the information obtained, rendering the science of public health better known and understood; to larger, better and cleaner dwellings; to more abundant and more healthy food; and to a better regulated public and private life. He cites an instance of the effects of regimen in the preservation of life, where 86 orphans had been reared in one establishment in 24 years, and one only of whom had died. They were taken from the poor, among whom the average mortality was six times as great.

We have been accustomed to cite the example of Prussia as worthy of imitation in the measures she has taken to promote the intellectual advancement of her people; but her measures to advance their physical energy and power deserve equal if not greater praise. Every fact there is gathered with great care under the direction of a central officer at Berlin, and arranged and published for the benefit of the people. Not long since I received from M. Hoffman, the director of the Statistical Bureau at Berlin, a paper on the Average Length of Life in the Prussian States, two extracts from which, translated from the German, I propose to present to show how these things are managed under that government. I have also other similar papers detailing the births, marriages and deaths.

The first extract is designed to illustrate the principle of the average length of life, and to show its operation under different circumstances, and the manner in which it was obtained in Prussia.

“The average length of life from birth up, will be found expressed in years and fractions of years, if we divide the number of the living by the mean proportion of annual deaths. For example, if among 1,000 there annually die, upon an average, 25, then the average length of life will be 40 years: that is, these 1,000 persons, taken together, live 40,000 years, and to each one of them, in the average, falls a life of 40 years, different as the length of life among indi-

viduals may actually be. The same result may arise in very different ways. A great many may die early, and yet the few survivors live so long, that still the average for each among the thousand will be 40 years; or the great majority may attain to but a little above or below forty years, and very few die early or live to a great age. If, for example, 600 were to die so early as to average only 12 years apiece, or altogether 7,200 years, still an average of 40 years might result for the whole 1,000, if the other 400, taken together, were to live 32,800 years, or on an average 82 years each. But the same average length of life for the 1,000 would occur, if the first mentioned 600 should reach, on the average, 36 years each, or, all together, 21,600 years; then the other 400, taken together, would live only 18,400 years, giving an average of only 46 years to each individual. It is clear that the condition of human society would be a very different thing, according as one or the other of the above hypotheses should be realized. Consequently, observations of this sort are particularly instructive, when the mean duration of life is reckoned, not merely from birth up, but also from certain other remarkable points in the course of human life. The age of those who die is commonly given, and hence it is easily possible to determine the number of those who died after the completion of a certain age. Thus, by comparing the annual entries upon the records in the Prussian States, we see how many died after the completion of their 1st, 2d, 5th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 20th, 25th year, and then again, from 5 to 5 years until the completion of the 90th year. With these aids it has become possible to ascertain the mean duration of human life, for the last named and peculiarly important divisions of life. This must be done separately for each of the sexes, since remarkable differences appear between them. It is known that for 100 girls, 105 or 106 boys are born, but this excess generally dies away during the first year of life; hence from birth up the mean duration of the male sex appears smaller than that of the female; but this difference, for the most part, vanishes in the mean duration for those over one year, which is found to be considerably greater, than that for the newly born, because they have already happily survived the first and most dangerous year of life. The mean duration for those over 14 is for the most part not very different from the mean duration for those over one year old; the diseases of childhood are past at the close of the 14th year, and this increases the hope of life; but then the 14th year completes a fifth part of the natural term of life, if we reckon it at seventy, and this again diminishes the hope of living. For those over 60, the mean duration of life in most of the provinces is not much under ten years, sometimes a little more.

"The difference of the mean duration of life in the different divisions of the Prussian States is very considerable; and it is by no means sufficient to estimate the same for each governmental district separately, for many districts consist of very unequal parts, which were only put together because singly they were too small to bear the expense of separate local governments. Accordingly, by comparing neighboring circles of similar soil and population, seventy divisions have been formed, for which the average length of life of the inhabitants is estimated below. We adopt that division of the State-domain into provincial (*landsrätliche*) circles, which existed at the reception of the statistical tables at the end of the year 1834; later changes in the territorial boundaries could not here be regarded. The averages have been drawn, from the 15 years, from the beginning of the year 1820 to the end of 1834: that is, from the same years with the comparative statement of births and deaths."

The Prussian States are divided into three principal divisions, nine sections, and seventy subdivisions, in which are classed the towns, or "circles," as they are there called, and the average duration of life in each subdivision is calculated. The extract given below is the entire account of one section, containing eight subdivisions.

"C. Third section, comprising the southern part of Upper Lausitz, all Middle Silesia, and Upper Silesia, west of the Oder.

Div. 1. *Circ. Görlitz and Bunzlau.*

" 2. " Kainau-Goldberg, Liegnitz, Jauer and Striegau.

" 3. " Neumarkt, Wohlau, Militsch, Trebnitz, Oels, Breslau, Ohlau and Brieg.

" 4. " Strehlen, Nimptsch and Münsterberg.

" 5. " Reichenbach, Schweidnitz, Waldenburg, Bolkenhain, Landshut, Kirschberg, Schönau, Lowenberg and Lauban.

" 6. " Frankenstein, Glatz, and Kabelschwerdt.

" 7. " Neustadt, Falkenberg, Neisse and Grottkau.

" 8. " Ratibor and Leobschütz.

The whole embraces 397.75 geographical square miles, and the population amounted, at the

Beginning of 1820 to	1,422,694
End of 1834 to	1,681,250

Making an average, to the square mile, at the

Beginning of 1820, of	3577
End of 1834, of	4227

So that the population increased about 18 1-6 per cent. in the 15 years.

"This section contains, in the first place, the fertile and highly cultivated plain, which stretches away between lower Silesia and the mountains, and continues east of the Oder beyond the Trebnitz mountain and to the Partsch, where it is considerably poorer. Moreover, to it belongs the whole front, middle and highest part of the mountains as far as to the Austrian boundary, and to the southernmost point of Upper Silesia. By far the greatest part of the soil is here very fruitful, with the exception of the high mountainous parts, where the rougher climate and partly also the rocky soil is unfavorable to cultivation. The whole tract is occupied by Germans, except a few countries, in which the Polish speech and manners have passed over into the neighboring circles; but in the circles of Leobschütz and Ratibor there is a numerous colony of Moravians, who have preserved their provincial language and manners. The religion of the inhabitants in divisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 is mainly evangelical, although a considerable number belong to the Catholic church; in division 6, 7, 8, on the contrary, the Catholic confession of faith prevails almost exclusively, and the few protestants for the most came in when the Prussians took possession in the year 1742. The mean duration of life here was:

(a) From birth up:

	<i>For Males.</i>	<i>For Females.</i>
Div. 1.	37 years, 280 days.	41 years, 245 days.
" 2.	32 " 26 "	35 " 10 "
" 3.	32 " 180 "	35 " 348 "
" 4.	36 " 198 "	39 " 166 "
" 5.	29 " 172 "	32 " 27 "
" 6.	31 " 176 "	34 " 234 "
" 7.	30 " 304 "	32 " 331 "
" 8.	26 " 140 "	27 " 99 "

(b) From the beginning of the 2d year, up :

	<i>For Males.</i>		<i>For Females.</i>	
Div. 1.	59 years,	27 days.	59 years,	112 days.
" 2.	52 "	53 "	51 "	230 "
" 3.	46 "	156 "	48 "	139 "
" 4.	53 "	228 "	53 "	59 "
" 5.	49 "	51 "	48 "	2 "
" 6.	47 "	170 "	47 "	55 "
" 7.	46 "	12 "	44 "	309 "
" 8.	37 "	189 "	35 "	209 "

(c) From the beginning of the 15th year, up :

Div. 1.	52 years,	124 days.	51 years,	265 days.
" 2.	49 "	214 "	48 "	278 "
" 3.	46 "	64 "	47 "	276 "
" 4.	50 "	27 "	49 "	167 "
" 5.	46 "	203 "	44 "	254 "
" 6.	44 "	162 "	42 "	129 "
" 7.	45 "	199 "	43 "	135 "
" 8.	40 "	47 "	36 "	61 "

(d) From the beginning of the 61st year, up :

Div. 1.	10 years,	57 days.	9 years,	161 days.
" 2.	9 "	157 "	8 "	227 "
" 3.	9 "	69 "	9 "	208 "
" 4.	10 "	92 "	9 "	201 "
" 5.	9 "	108 "	8 "	245 "
" 6.	9 "	284 "	7 "	358 "
" 7.	8 "	346 "	8 "	66 "
" 8.	7 "	250 "	7 "	12 "

Can any one doubt the great value of such calculations, if applied to the different sections of Massachusetts, and made from the correct data which a Registry system would give?

England has had a Registry system in operation since 1838, as we have before stated, and it has already developed facts of the utmost importance to that nation and the world. Among other results, it has led to the adoption of measures for the relief of unhealthy districts. It has also afforded the means of forming a Life Table, showing the mean duration or expectation of life in England, which is of very great value. I extract the following interesting account of that table from the Fifth Registration Report.

"In the years 1840-1, a million children (1,014,461) were born in England, and their births were registered; if the mortality should remain the same, the Life Table will enable us to follow this million, and to determine how many will be alive, and how many will die, through the several years of the next century, until they have all 'returned to the earth from which they came,' and been replaced by other generations destined to pursue the same rounds of life. To bring the observation within narrower limits, let us take 100,000 as the basis of the observation; and from the proportions of the two sexes registered, it will be found that 51,274 of them were boys, 48,726 girls. And here it will be recollected that they are not government annuitants—nor persons who have assured their lives—nor selected lives—nor the inhabitants of any particular town—but the children of all ranks and classes of Englishmen; some of them born in halls and palaces,

and surrounded by all the luxuries and conveniences of life; others born in huts on the mountain side, in the cellars of ill-constructed cities, in lodging-houses, in cottages, farm-houses, or such dwellings as our towns afford. Let it be assumed that the 100,000 were all born on the same day—the 1st of January, 1841; and that the survivors, counted on the first day of 1842, 1843, and of every year for the next 100 years, will exist in the numbers against the respective ages of the table, which I shall call the English Life Table.

Of the 100,000 children born, according to the supposition, on January 1st, 1841, 85,369 were alive on January 1, 1842. They were exactly a year old, and are placed against the age "1" of the table. 14,631 perished in the first year, the fourth part of them in the first month of life. This is a smaller proportion of deaths than people have been led to suppose occur in the first year; but the facts leave it undoubted that at least this number of children survived in 1841 out of 100,000 born. On January 1, 1843, the survivors were two years old, and in number 80,102; 5,267 died in the second year. On January 1, 1846, the 5th birthday will be attained, and there will be 74,201 living. In the first five years, therefore, 25,799 of the 100,000 children born, die; during this period, when they are at home and under the care of the mother, and encounter the contagious diseases which beset the beginning of life, their safety depends very much upon the power of the parents to supply them with food and raiment—upon the mother's watchfulness and cleanliness—upon the air they are doomed to respire in imprisoned courts and alleys, or in the fresh open atmosphere of healthy country districts. During the next 5 years, when they leave home more, and when great numbers pass part of the day at school, the mortality becomes less considerable; 70,612 are alive at the age of 10; and from 10 to 15, when those "who labor with their hands" begin to follow the plough—enter the factory—or descend the mine—the loss of life remains small; 68,627 will live to the age of 15. At this age the loss of life among girls is rather greater than the loss of life among boys, and it continues so for the next five years, when both sexes are more detached from the care of their parents, and the majority pursue the professions or trades by which they afterwards gain a livelihood. The mortality appears to increase rather rapidly from 12 to 15; and then at a slow regular rate from 15 to 55 years; 66,059 attain the age of 20. It was observed that 51,274 boys were born alive to 48,726 girls; but the mortality in infancy is greater among boys than girls; so that 31,958 males attain the age of twenty-five and 31,623 females attain the age of twenty-four. This is about the average age of marriage in England; and the number of the two sexes is then nearly equal. About four-fifths of the males who attain the age of manhood marry; the proportion of women who marry being the same. It might have been supposed that the peculiar danger which women encounter at this age enhances their mortality; it does so, but less than the mortality of males is increased: 50,301 of the 100,000 persons born attain the age of forty-five; namely, 25,311 men, and 24,990 women. The chance of living from 25 to 45 is rather in favor of English women. The violent deaths of men on the rivers, and the sea-coast, in mines, in the streets, in travelling, in their dangerous occupations; the mental agitations and anxieties, terminating unhappily sometimes in suicide—the accumulation of workmen in ill-ventilated shops, or the hard exhausting work of the agricultural laborer, independently of war, and service in unhealthy climates, counterbalance the dangers and sorrows of

child-bearing. At the age of 55, this generation will have given birth to, and brought up the generation by which it is to be succeeded; a more rapid rate of mortality will then set in, and more than a thousand die every year; yet 37,996 will be alive at the age of 60, and 24,531 attain the age of 70—11,823 men, and 12,708 women—the mortality of women being less than that of men after 55. The mental faculties, ripened and developed by experience, will not protect the frame from the accelerated and insidious progress of decay; the toil of the laborer the wear and tear of the artisan, the exhausting passions, the struggles and strains of intellect, and, more than all these, the natural falling off of vitality, will reduce the numbers to 9,398 by the age of 80. After the age of 80 the observations grow uncertain; but if we admit their accuracy, 1,140 will attain the age of 90; 16 will be centenarians; and of the 100,000, one man and one woman—like the lingering barks of an innumerable convoy—will reach their distant haven in 105 years, and die in 1945.

‘Crebrescent optatæ auræ, portusque patescit
Jam propior.’”

I have thus far considered those advantages only which would result to the physical welfare of the people from a system of Registration. There are very many personal advantages which might be mentioned and illustrated. It has been well said, that “*it is fully as necessary for the preservation of the rights of individuals to preserve a register of births, marriages, and deaths, as it is to preserve a register of deeds.*” But I have extended my communication already too far, and must restrain an inclination to go into this part of the subject.

The effort of Massachusetts to establish a Registry System is highly commended in various places. The American Journal of Medical Sciences, of July, 1844, already referred to, in noticing the Second Annual Report, after speaking of the general defects of Registration, says: “So far as we know, Massachusetts is the first of the States to set about correcting this deficiency. In doing so, she deserves all praise, as well as for the intelligence displayed by her Legislature in effecting numerous other important objects.” “When the States generally shall have followed the enlightened example of Massachusetts, an amount of data will be amassed, from which the most important results must be deduced.” Again, in noticing last April the Third Report, that journal speaks of the measure as “reflecting such high credit upon the State of Massachusetts—a measure which places her far above the other States of the Union.” “There are some obstacles in the way of obtaining correct information, which the enlightened gentlemen who regulate the affairs of Massachusetts will doubtless overcome in due time. The present age owes them much for what they have accomplished, and the promising commencement will lead to the most valuable result. May other States soon follow the example of Massachusetts by making provisions for similar reports!”

The American Almanac, for 1846, contains a favorable notice of the last Annual Report, and highly commends the example of Massachusetts. I close this communication with an extract from the Fifth Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in England:—

“The census has been taken with regularity in the United States of America, but abstracts of the Register of deaths have only been published by the cities of

Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and some of the more advanced towns. No correct life table can therefore be framed for the population of America, until they adopt, in addition to the census, the system of Registration which exists in European States. Since the English Life Table has now been framed from the necessary data, I venture to express a hope, that the facts may be collected and abstracted, from which Life Tables for other nations can be constructed. A comparison of the duration of successive generations in England, France, Prussia, Austria, Russia, America, and other States, would throw much light on the physical condition of the respective populations, and suggest to scientific and benevolent individuals in every country, and to the governments, many ways of diminishing the sufferings, and ameliorating the health and condition of the people; for the longer life of a nation denotes more than it does in an individual—a happier life—a life more exempt from sickness and infirmity—a life of greater energy and industry, of greater experience and wisdom. By these comparisons, a noble national emulation might be excited; and rival nations would read of sickness diminished, deformity banished, life saved—of victories over death and the grave—with as much enthusiasm as of victories over each other's armies in the field; and the triumph of one would not be the humiliation of the other; for in his contention none could loose territory, or honor, or blood, but all would gain strength."

Let Massachusetts perfect the measures she has already begun; and thus take the lead in efforts to improve the physical condition of her population, and to reduce the mass of human misery they suffer. She will then set an example worthy of imitation by all her sister States.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

LEMUEL SHATTUCK.



